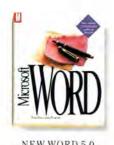


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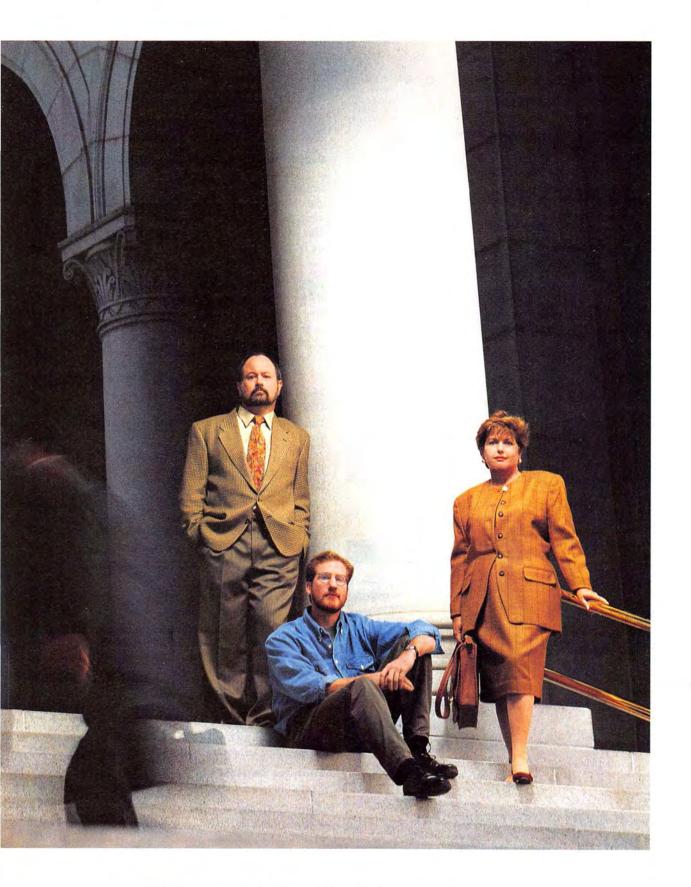
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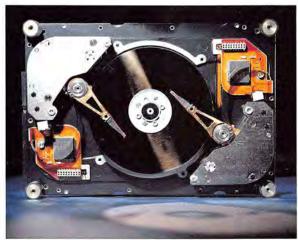


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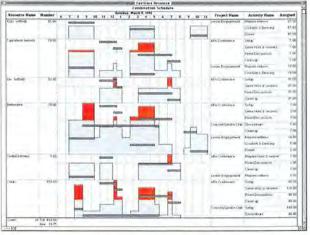
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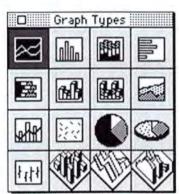
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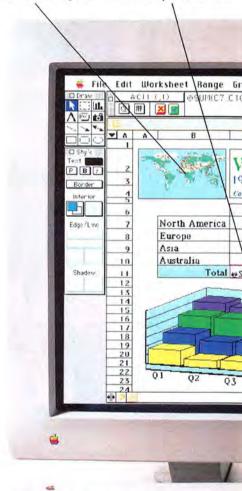
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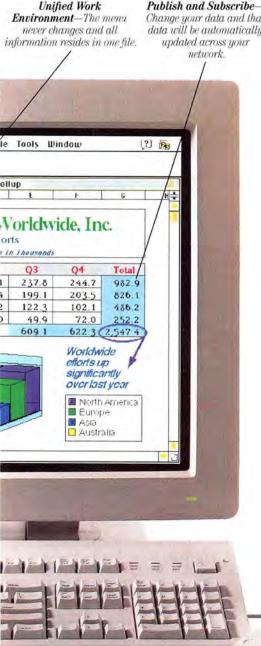




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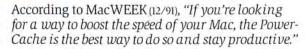
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MacUser

A New Kind of Artist

t MacUser, it's not just the Labs staff members who push the limits of technology. With a little help from Photoshop 2.01, associate technical art director Peter Gould has lately (January '92, pages 130 and 131, and February '92, pages 194 and 195) been producing vivid cutaway images of hardware so authentic that art directors from all over the country have been calling him up to ask him about his technique.

This month, one of Peter's unique cutaways graces our cover for the first time. Here's how Peter created the image.

He first disassembled an APS Quantum 210 ZFP hard-disk drive, cleaned and polished each component, and put it back together (leaving out the screws). Then, using a 4x5 Sinar P2 camera equipped with a macro lens and set on a tripod, he shot each layer of components from several angles. He also shot Polaroid pictures to help him design the structure of the final

composite image. The outside layer, just a standard product shot, was the easiest, whereas the inside layers required some careful lighting. Then, to make sure he had collected all the pieces of his puzzle, Peter worked up a comp from photocopies of the Polaroids.

To get the images into his computer, Peter had the film scanned by a high-resolution Scitex CT and pulled the raw scans into Photoshop 2.01. At this point, al-



Associate technical art director Peter Gould uses Photoshop to peel open products on film.

though the images were sharp, they inevitably had flaws that had to be touched up, just as in fashion photography. Peter cleaned each image electronically, smoothing out nicks and blotches, removing blemishes, eliminating hot spots, and working with the colors to ensure continuous polished tones.

Once the component images were clean, Peter assembled them into the desired composite, using Photoshop's cut-and-paste tools. To get the effect of cutaway edges without cut-and-paste traces, he retouched the image with Photoshop's retouching tools, blurring and feathering the edges until the image was sleek and seamless.

The whole process took about 12 hours, half of that in photography and half in Photoshop image editing. "We used to either annotate a photograph, which didn't show you much," Peter says, "or create illustrations of the insides from scratch, which was very labor-intensive and not as realistic. I think of this technique as a hybrid between photography and illustration."

Peter modestly says that anyone with a little bit of patience and an eye for detail can do it, and technically he's right. But that leaves out the art. He adds, "There's a lot of previsualization involved. It's really a new kind of art, with the result being the best of both worlds: photo-realistic illustration."

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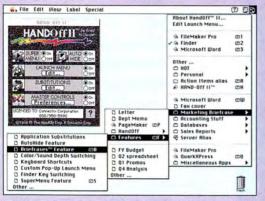
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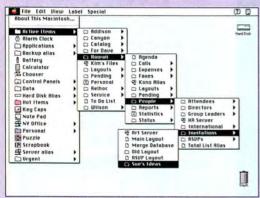
HAND-OFF II THE PROVEN TOOL FOR FAST & EASY FILE ACCESS

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"The only utility that offers application substitution, and its Launch Menu is our favorite."

- MACWEEK

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- MACWORLD

"It's a good value and a useful addition to any Macintosh."

- MAC BUYER'S GUIDE

"HAND-Off II will automatically locate and launch the proper application even if it has been moved or renamed."

- MACWEEK

"This utility is definitely in a league with Suitcase II and it's indispensible."

- MACUSER





LETTERS



Richard Rossiter, of Fairfield, Connecticut, says he loves MacUser but voices a reservation: "SCSIme, but the one problem I have with your publication is all the acronyms INIT. It was very TIFF for me to understand what you were saying without knowing what all those initials meant. I was dumbfounded by WYSIWYG and went ROMing through your pages for a clue."

GUI, we're sorry. At the RISC of RAMming you with more jargon, we suggest that you get our glossary of acronyms ASAP from the Download & Support forum of Zmac (get the file ACRNYM.TXT in Library 7). Of course, you'll need to make sure you have the right bps and BBS.

⊠ Write to Letters to the Editor, c/o MacUser, 950 Tower Lane, 18th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404, or post your letter on the MacUser Forum of ZiffNet/Mac, our on-line service (also known as Zmac).

All letters become the property of MacUser, and we reserve the right to edit any letters we print. Please include a return address and a daytime phone number.

Upgrade Tirades

After reading "The Classic II: Two Times a Classic," (December '91, page 121), I wonder: Am I the only one who wants to know where the LC II is? As a prospective Macintosh LC buyer, it frustrates me that the lower-cost Classic II has a faster 68030 16-megahertz processor that fully supports all of System 7's features, including virtual memory, whereas the more expensive LC is inhibited by a 68020 16-megahertz processor. Not only is the Classic II generally faster than the LC but it can also take advantage of programs written to work optimally with a 68030-based machine. It only seems logical that the Classic will be discontinued. After that, Apple would be foolish to maintain the 68020-based LC, because everything from the Classic II to the IIfx (excluding the PowerBook 100) would be 68030-based.

As an orphaned Mac Plus owner, I don't trust Apple to offer an upgrade. When will Apple do it right the first time?

Don C. Steinbarger Austin, TX

Macintosh Users for Plus Enhancement (MUPE) is a new special-interest group I'd like to start for the thousands of Mac Plus owners, like me, who have fallen victim to Apple's neat little trick. I'm talking about soldered ROMs, barring me from upgrading my Mac Plus. How about removing the ROMs and soldering a socket? Or better yet, how about a SIMM-mounting platform for ROM upgrades in their place?

Perhaps I don't know as much about computers as I thought I did, but one thing I do know about is Apple's business practice of built-in obsolescence. Having been a faithful Mac owner since Macs were first introduced in 1984 (when my Plus was only a Mac 128K), it really hurts.

William Bruchert

Chicago, IL

We doubt that Apple has a secret plannedobsolescence policy. After all, Apple has had upgrades (usually a logic-board swap) for many a Mac model. But even some newer Mac models (such as the IIcx) that have a vacant built-in ROM socket have failed to exploit this capacity. For example, when the IIcx balked at System 7, no new ROMs were offered to fill it, because it was cheaper and just as effective to create a software solution (MODE32, available free to anyone via on-line services such as CompuServe or America Online, or from your local user group or dealer). As for the LC, our best guess is that Apple will provide an '030 upgrade for it sometime in '92. By the way, the ROM isn't the only obsolete part in the Plus.

Give Me a Break

I'm afraid many readers won't get Michael Swaine's point about taking time for a physical break ("I Break for Productivity," January '92, page 41), because they're too busy trying to get some work done.

Technology pushes us to go faster and faster. New technology (computers included), while removing much of the drudgery from onerous tasks, actually increases the pressure on us to produce. Say an eight-hour task can be completed in half the time with new technology. Does this mean that you can go home at noon and receive the same pay? NO! You'll be given additional work to do in the same eight hours. Which is why it's essential to take that half-hour walk two or three times a day.

And congratulations for putting out the January edition in November! Does that mean

Dear Mr. Sculley . . .

As keynote speaker at this year's CES, Mr. Sculley announced that Apple's first consumerelectronics goodies might be on the shelves in time for holiday shoppers. What exactly those goodies will be, though, he refused to say.

Speak Up:

What kinds of consumer electronics would you like to see with an Apple logo on them?

☑ Send your thoughts to Dear Mr. Sculley, c/o MacUser, 950 Tower Lane, 18th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404.

Regarding the **Apple/IBM joint ventures** called Taligent and Kaleida, Kristy Lantz Astry, of Denver, Colorado, likes their new logos, but we sense some sarcasm in her interpretation of the names that go along with them. "Kaleida reminds me of the saying 'when worlds collide-a,' which in this case is true. They sure were 'talligent' to think of that. Hyuk."

Brian Marantz, of Salt Lake City, Utah, wants Apple and IBM to agree on a name that reflects the process of computer buying, and he found it right under Big Blue's nose. "Apple and IBM didn't need to go very far to look for a name for their joint venture — IBM also stands for 'I Buy Macintosh."

Michael D. Cooper, of Perkasie, Pennsylvania, thinks "an appropriate name for the multimedia joint venture is Vaudeville. The Taligent replacement I suggest is 'FUBAR.'" FUBAR? Foolishly United Beyond All Recognition?

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you got all of December off?

William E. Sydnor

San Luis Obispo, CA

Nope, we worked right through December to get the magazine to you on schedule - our schedule, that is. Typically, we get the magazine out on the newsstands between the 10th and the 25th of the month preceding the cover date. We accelerate the delivery to subscribers so that they can read MacUser a few days earlier and have more time for those productivity breaks Michael Swaine suggested. - NP

Compact Answers

The article "The Incredible Shrinking File" (January '92, page 202) is the perfect at-a-glance view of the electronic world and fetching files. Well, it would be the perfect view if it weren't for a few errors:

BinHex: Although some earlier versions of BinHex could convert a binary file to a text file, BinHex 5.0 cannot. BinHex 5.0 performs only MacBinary translation.

PackIt III: Compact Pro cannot open PackIt III archives.

Self-extracting archives: It's misleading to say that DeSEA opens self-extracting archives. DeSEA doesn't gain access to the contents; it strips off self-extraction code from some file-compression utilities.

StuffIt: With both StuffIt Classic and StuffIt Deluxe, you can create StuffIt 1.5.1format archives. These archives can be extracted with ShortCut, UnstuffIt Deluxe, Compact Pro, DiskDoubler, and Super-Disk! Utilities. All StuffIt archives can also be opened within HyperCard, Micro-Phone II, and QuicKeys 2 if you have StuffIt Deluxe on your machine.

UnStuffIt should be called UnStuffIt Deluxe to distinguish it from its predecessor, UnStuffIt 1.5. UnStuffIt Deluxe can get to all StuffIt formats, whereas UnStuffIt cannot.

Joe Sewell Melbourne, FL

PostScript 2 Preview

A lot of laser-printer companies are getting into bed with the new, "improved" PostScript Level 2 from Adobe, all in the name of increased speed. Although it does seem to boost the performance of 6 ppm laser printers to about 9 ppm, here's a friendly warning to all concerned: Adobe PostScript Level 2 is not necessarily compatible with PostScript!

In fact, Adobe's own Smart Art series

of custom-text-effects software is not compatible with Adobe's PostScript Level 2. If Adobe's own software doesn't function correctly with Level 2, then there are, no doubt, other compatibility problems yet to be uncovered.

Harry Sweeney Portland, OR

In your case, the problem is most likely Smart Art's, not PostScript Level 2's. However, we've heard similar comments from other readers who were using other software. We're planning a future lab report on Level 2 printers and are compiling Level 1-compatibility test files for that purpose. If you or any other readers would like to share your problem files with us, we'll consider them for inclusion in our test suite. - HB

A View from the TopDown

An inaccuracy in your review of Top-Down ("Quick Clicks," January '92, page 86) concerns a fundamental feature. It isn't true that "The appearance of Top-Down documents can easily become cluttered, because symbols must always appear separately from the text that describes them." Also, although it is true that Top-Down doesn't provide Bézier curves, the Bézier line in TopDown's competitor forces users to spend a great deal of time managing its shape while trying to ensure that it doesn't curve inside a symbol.

Wendy S. Sternick, President Kaetron Software

Houston, TX

Our review was indeed in error. Contrary to what we stated, text labels can be placed within symbols, which eliminates the objection that TopDown charts can easily become cluttered-looking. - SJ

Title Bout

We have some new names Que could use for its book to avoid confusion with Robin Williams' The Little Mac Book (solicited by Guy Kawasaki in his column "Anything Is Possible," January '92, page 29): Inside Macintosh, Volume VIII (trick everyone into thinking it's the next volume); The Macintosh Bible (Que could say that it was Moses who gave it the idea for the name); Macintosh Revealed, Volume Five: Copying the Toolbox (beat Hayden Books on its next release); The Macintosh Way (give Guy something to really gripe about).

Jim and Dana Webb Neil and Marilyn Blahut Angleton, TX

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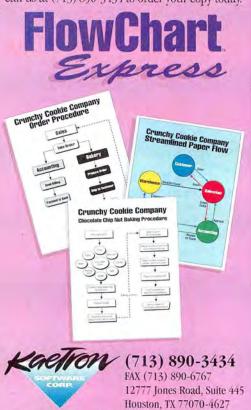
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LETTERS

Guy's "Anything Is Possible" column"; is true evangelism: the passionate selling of a cause. I bet — at least I sincerely hope — that Que will be inundated with indignation. In the words of my revered English teacher, "You done good."

Richard Theriault Clearwater, FL

I remember the day that Robin Williams told us, her PageMaker class, in a slightly horrified voice, that Guy Kawasaki was coming to interview her. "If someone like Guy Kawasaki is coming up to your house to interview you and you have only a bed to sit on, do you change the sheets?"

Noreen Skelly Davis, CA

hear through the grapevine that Que has received thousands of letters and faxes from all over the country, chastising it for using the title *The Little Mac Book*. I wish I could thank every one of you with a basket of flowers and a box of chocolates. Ihope that Que and other large corporations will see beyond titles and numbers and look at the human beings behind them. The author of Que's *Little Mac Book*, Dr. Neil Salkind, who voiced an objection to the title, is also getting hurt, as is Peachpit, and ultimately, Que.

Robin Williams Santa Rosa, CA

Guy Kawasaki has taken cheap-shot journalism to a new low in his emotional article about *The Little Mac Book*. I expect this kind of writing in *The National Enquirer* but not in a reputable magazine such as *MacUser*.

Where's the fairness in this article? The balance of facts on both sides of the issue?

It appears from the meager facts Kawasaki provided that Que's book either had already been published or was close to being published when the other Mac book hit the streets, which would certainly rule out the possibility of Que's having deliberately benefited from someone else's work.

Mike La Bonne Indianapolis, IN

I think you're way off base criticizing Que for giving a book the same name as Peachpit Press' *The Little Mac Book*. Writing a few letters won't change things. Of course, you can't copyright a title.

I don't believe that Que's rival title has hurt Ms. Williams' sales or her writing career. In fact, the reverse may be the case. With Que's title out there, it's promoting the title of her book. When a writer takes a proposal to a new company, that company wants to know one thing: How many copies of how many books have you sold? If I were Robin, I'd be inclined to say, "I wrote The Little Mac Book" and just shut my mouth there.

Deirdre Maloy Queensbury, NY

Guy Kawasaki concluded that Que "wronged" Robin Williams. Why? I will not answer Ms. Williams' allegations of malice. They are not true. But malice is not what this is about. It is about "niceness" and the apparent lack of humanity in large corporations.

How does anyone prove niceness? It is a quality of character that you judge after you know someone for a while. Robin Williams does not know me or the people at Que. Yes, Que is the largest computer-book publishing company, and that, I suppose, makes some people think of IBM, or Microsoft, or even Apple. But we are a small fraction of the size of any of those companies.

We're proud of who we are at Que, and the charge of being "not nice" hurts us. We wonder how a group of people who used to be the most conscientious, hard-working, considerate, and "human" people you could find anywhere could suddenly lose all our humanity simply because we are now the biggest company in the business.

Not long after we came up with the title of our book *The Big Mac Book* in 1988, I knew that we would follow it with a Little Mac companion. It was a natural. Then Peachpit Press took a book that had had the title *Macintosh Basics: An Informal Guide to Using the Macintosh* and published it under the title *The Little Mac Book*. I was astounded. Peachpit took my title. Sure, it changed the word *Big* to *Little* and it got its book out before I did. But who are we kidding? That title was mine, and Peachpit took it.

So where does this leave us? I intend to follow the specific suggestion of many of your readers. The new editions of both books are being named *Que's Big Mac Book* and *Que's Little Mac Book*. I wish Robin Williams success with her book. Our books are very different, and any Mac user would be well served to have both.

Lloyd J. Short, Publisher Que Corp. Carmel, IN

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LETTERS

Working on Workstations

There are several problems with the table comparing the pros and cons of Macs and workstations in the article "When Worlds Collide: Macs Versus Workstations" (January '92, page 112). Why is the Mac knocked for not having a RISC processor? Surely you folks don't still believe that RISC will save the world! All the things that make RISC processors fast can and are being applied to CISC processors with equivalent results.

You list the Mac IIfx as using A/UX 2.0, and yet you cite as a con its lack of preemptive multitasking. When a Mac is running A/UX, it is running UNIX, preemptive multitasking included.

Michael J. Gibbs Surprise, AZ

We agree with your last point, but on the issue of RISC-based workstations, even though there is some overlap, the fastest CISC-based machines are still slower than the fastest RISC machines.

We may not think that RISC will save the world, but Apple and IBM seem to lean that way — witness their plans for codevelopment of a RISC-based workstation. — KW

Regarding the article on workstations, could someone please tell me what the difference/benefit is between Display PostScript and a Macintosh running ATM?

Brian Fette

Port Washington, WI

Display PostScript is a full PostScript interpreter, similar to the one in a Post-Script printer. It can draw PostScript graphics and text directly to a computer screen, so what you see on-screen precisely matches what you get out of the printer. ATM (Adobe Type Manager) is capable of rendering only PostScript type on-screen, not graphics. — KW

Belly Up

In "Dual Dynamos: The Macintosh Quadra 700 and 900" (December '91, page 114), you state that the grooves or slots positioned on the bottom edge of all Macs have been transplanted to the top of the box of the Quadra 700. You warn about inserting a floppy disk upside down. Was this learned from experience? The photo of the Quadra on page 115 shows the Mac sitting under a monitor that is working, but the slots are on the bottom, hence your Mac is upside down. Perhaps this picture was intended for Macintosh

users in the southern hemisphere.

Michael N. Witman

New Britain, CT

Let's not be hemispherist; from the point of view of the southern hemisphere, it was intended for those in the northern half. No matter what the hemisphere, you caught us with our Quadra upside-down. — NP

Crossed Wires

The response to D. Pirotte's letter on 10BASE-T (January '92, page 16) contains a serious error. Your editor says that the extra pair of wires of a four-wire phone cable can be used for 10BASE-T. Not so! 10BASE-T Ethernet requires four wires. I don't think that the editor meant to imply that you should take another pair of wires from another cable, which is not a good idea for wiring networks.

Dave Kosiur Fullerton, CA You're right. — KW

Apple's Alphabet

John C. Dvorak made a good point when he poked fun at IBM, claiming that if it could, it would rename the Mac some "dopey number" ("Who Killed Apple?," January '92, page 316). But Apple itself is not entirely different. Just what do the letter combinations in the Mac names represent? Why call a Mac IIsi a Mac IIsi? Why not a IIsx? Or a IIce? Or a . . .

Keith F. Luscher Columbus, OH

According to Apple, the letters don't stand for anything. They're simply there to distinguish one machine from another. However, rumor at MacUser has it that c equals compact, i equals internal video, and sequals "dunno." The x in cx may have been put there because the machine was equivalent in power to the IIx. — HB

Clarifications

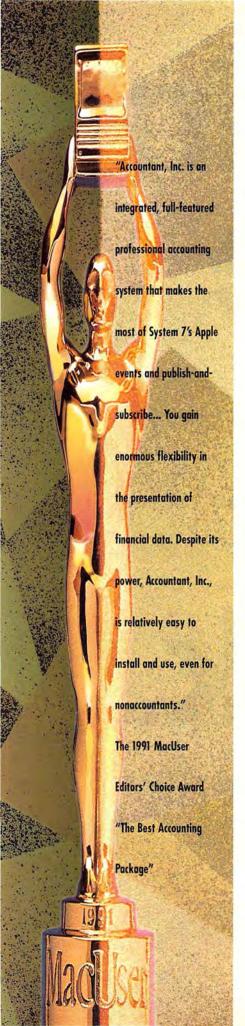
In the February '92 article on contact managers ("Staying in Contact," page 131), the rating for Market Master should have been 3.5 mice.

The correct number to call to inquire about PickTure ("The Ultimate System Folder," January '92, page 94) is (818) 840-8021, which is the customer-assistance number of Right Answers Product Development.

The number listed for Outbound Systems, Inc. (February '92, page 47), was a fax number. The correct phone number is (303) 786-9200.

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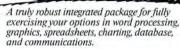
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ClarisWorks also doesn't hog RAM. Remaining nimble and quick on Classics and LCs and keeping portables, portable.

It's even remarkably simple to share anything you create. With our XTND technology, ClarisWorks can read and write to dozens of popular file formats, like AppleWorks, PICT, MacWrite II, and Microsoft Works.

Last, but certainly not least, ClarisWorks is a program you can build on.

The menus and commands in each ClarisWorks environment mirror those in our best-selling specialized programs. Enabling you to move to any one of them without starting over at square one. Which makes ClarisWorks the only

Except for cocontal, the consistent prince of tropical oils is decitring.

The property complementality may be a second of the property of the property complementality may be a second of the property of the property complementality of the property of the property complementality of the property of the

rom within a text document, you can click on ne graphics tool and start drawing. Or click n the spreadsheet tool and create a spreadsheet ght in the middle of your document. Whatever

ool you select, its menu bar appears at the top.

Though we simply call it ClarisWorks.™

What ClarisWorks software does is compine word processing, graphics, spreadsheet, charting, database, and communications in one convenient package.

But here's the big difference: To add graphics, say, or a spreadsheet or a chart to a word processing document, simply click the

on-screen tool. You never have to leave what you're doing. Or get side-tracked by a new window.

For all its power, ClarisWorks is just 580K. So it never weighs down a PowerBook. integrated program with a true growth path.

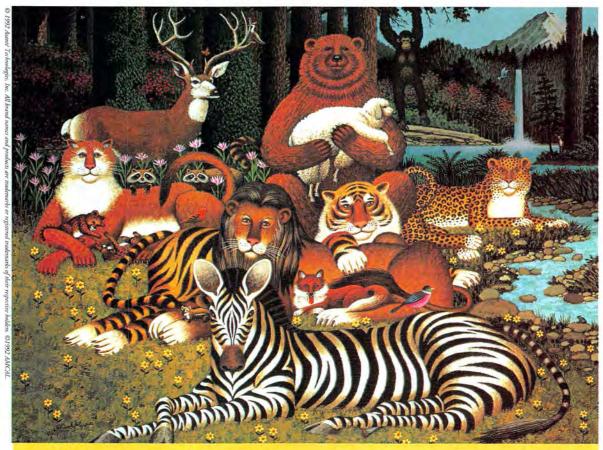
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The new Asanté MacRing family lets you connect Macs to Token Ring without worry.

Whenever you need to connect Macs® to a network, it just makes good sense to come to Asanté™ - the leader in Macintosh® networking. And when it comes to Token Ring,® Asanté offers you a wide range of solutions.

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networks and support all popular network operating systems. Plus the MacRing NuBus card transmits data

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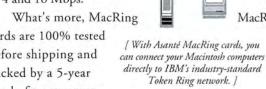
from MacUser® Magazine, along with the opinion that, "You can't go wrong

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> way to make certain that the Macs you connect to Token Ring will get along with your other computers very nicely.

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Three Little Macs



When Apple takes on the consumerelectronics market, it'll challenge everything you thought you knew about how computers should look and act.

uccess has taken much of the shine off Apple. Even with the low-cost Classics, the high-octane Quadras, the statusladen PowerBooks, and the quiet power of System 7, Apple watchers have been waiting for something to shake them to their core. And John Sculley thinks he has just the ticket: consumer electronics.

And Sculley needs a hit. Sure, Sculley can claim his share of successes during his years at the helm, but he's also responsible for his share of flops. Regardless of how you calculate his claim-to-fame/shame-and-blame ratio, some are suggesting that it's time for some fresh blood at the top.

Look at it this way: It wasn't until long after Sculley left Pepsi that the company got hip enough to bring in Michael Jackson and Ray Charles as its pitchmen. But Sculley is betting that the consumer-electronics market is going to help Apple — and Sculley — revisit their glory days.

Apple has danced around this market for years. In part, the Mac Classic was Apple's way of testing the waters for lower-priced mass-market products. And now Apple is ready to go head to head against such Japanese megacompanies as Sharp, Casio, and Nintendo, which dominate the market for hand-held personal-information and entertainment devices.

Earlier this year, Apple finally made it official: It plans to enter the consumerelectronics business with products due out by the end of 1992. What kind of products? My Japanese-made crystal ball is playing scenarios on three channels.

FYI: The Cw/BCD

First you'll see products such as a Classic with a built-in CD-ROM drive (Cw/BCD). To all appearances, a Cw/BCD made by the consumer-electronics group at Apple will be the same as a Cw/BCD built by the computer division. The difference: pricing and distribution channels. The consumer product will cost less (they'll leave out the SCSI port or find some other way to keep business buyers from buying it) and will be sold at your local Circuit City or Intelligent Electronics.

The second kind of consumer product will also essentially be a Cw/BCD. The difference here will be that it won't have a monitor (it will hook up to your TV) and will be in a box with a form factor more like your stereo equipment's than your computer equipment's.

And you'll use it more like stereo equipment than like computer equipment. In fact, one major use for it will be to control your other stereo equipment. How about menu-driven VCR programming that's really easy? You'll simply download a weekly menu of TV (and radio) shows from an on-line service that will place the week's fare into pull-down menus for easy selection.

Want to add more special effects for the SurroundSound module in your amplifier or turn camcorder images into QuickTime video postcards-on-a-floppy? No problem — just pop some new software into your Cw/BCD.

For this scenario to work, Apple needs to partner up with an established home-electronics maker, such as Sony, which will incorporate AppleTalk connectivity into its entire product line of TVs, VCRs, and videodisc and audio CD players. (If Apple is smart, this Cw/BCD will bear a Sony logo.)

Table of Contents

Apple will need to generate a huge library of titles for these machines. You wouldn't buy a VCR if there were only three movies to choose from at your local video store, and you won't buy a Cw/BCD unless there's plenty of content to make it worth the investment in a new piece of hardware.

Although it hasn't yet committed to a specific hardware platform, Microsoft has been buying up electronic-publishing rights to all kinds of material, from books to artwork. Content-based platforms may be one reason why Apple is enthusiastic about such products as Voyager's Expanded Books series of floppy-based novels.

But it's the third kind of consumer product that will be the most innovative: hand-held devices that will look like some kind of cross between a portable CD player, a Nintendo GameBoy, and a Sharp Wizard — what John Sculley calls personal digital assistants (PDAs).

A single-purpose machine such as a GameBoy or a pocket pager can easily be built with a tiny form factor. But if Apple's PDAs are to be more than toys or gadgets, they need to be multipurpose: for everything from scheduling, contact and sales tracking, and time billing to accessing data (such as travel information or your own custom CD-ROM database) that can be updated on-line.

A general-purpose PDA needs to store information, search through it efficiently, access the results, update the information on the fly, and reconcile that information with the data on your desktop. But palm-sized machines pay a price: There are inherent limits to the kind of abilities you can build in to machines that small.

Apple's PDA needs a decent-sized, moderate-resolution display, something more than the kind of scrolling characterbased display you find on a pager. It needs to be able to store information in memory or play it from a small storage device (such as a floppy, a mini CD-ROM drive, or a ROM card of some kind).

Apple's PDA should have menu-based data retrieval that can be downloaded from a database on your desktop or from on-line services such as the OAG (Official Airlines Guide). You'll navigate through these menus with a minitrackball and forward/backward/home buttons.

All of this can be accomplished, at reasonable prices. The hard piece of the puzzle - the part that's kept the PDA market from exploding thus far — is data input. A standard keyboard doesn't work: It's too big, or the keys are too small, or it's just too awkward to balance the PDA on one hand while typing with the other.

A Small Voice

A partial answer is voice recognition. The level of voice-recognition technology required for simple menu navigation or for distinguishing the numbers 1 through 10 or the 26 letters of the alphabet can be miniaturized to PDA size. But that's far too clumsy for inputting free-form information.

One solution is to use menu-based choices to enter as much information as possible - dates and times from pop-up menus, names and places from a directory, and so on - complemented by voice annotations for the free-form data that isn't on the menu. Spoken comments are indicated with an on-screen icon and can be played back at the click of a button.

A few megabytes of storage are enough to store a few minutes' worth of spoken entries-sufficient for several dozen short annotations. Whenever your voice memory gets full, you just plug the PDA in to a phone line and it automatically calls your assistant's computer back at the home office and uploads your digitized voice memos; your faithful assistant (or perhaps a service bureau) transcribes the memos. The next time you call in, the PDA downloads the transcriptions.

The PDA keeps track of what data goes with which voice snippets and swaps the characters for the appropriate transcribed text. Once the transcription has been done, the voice memory is freed up for new recordings. (This can be done continuously, in the background, with the cellularmodem option.) If you ever run out of voice memory, you can resort to voice recognition, but you'll have to spell out words character by character.

One final off-the-cuff prediction: Apple's PDA should be small enough to wear on your wrist. Or maybe Sculley has something better up his sleeve.



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\$\$\$\$1/2 - MacUser

1991 Best Word Processor
- MacUser U.K. 1989 Best Word Processor
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One American word processor has wowed them in Korea where a localized version is included with most every Macintosh sold. In Japan, one American word processor has sold thousands in the few months since its introduction. And when Apple® Europe needed a word processor for Eastern Europe and the

Middle East, they came to this American program: NISUS®. @ Find out why NISUS won awards of merit from Byte and MacUser and was voted

best word processor twice by MacUser UK. And ask about NISUS® Compact, simply the best word processor for PowerBook" users or for entry level word processing. NISUS compatibility and power at a third the price. See NISUS now. @



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*Suggested retail price. Memory expansion kit required.

nlike most printers that merely claim to be appropriate for network applications, the QMS-PS* 1700 was conceived and built to fulfill one basic objective: To be the most efficient printer there is in a network environment. In terms of cost, as well as performance.

Proprietary software that resides within a 25 MHz RISC controller is what sets this printer apart.

It handles PostScript* documents up to six times faster than printers with the more common 68020 microprocessor. And it's the heart of an architecture that you'll find in printers from QMS* and only QMS. We call it Crown.

Crown architecture is the platform for everything that makes our printers The Network Printers.™ Consider whether its benefits would help your group work more efficiently.

The QMS-PS 1700 recognizes incoming data and selects the right printer language, without troublesome software reconfigurations.

The QMS-PS 1700 connects to Ethernet* configured as DECnet*, TCP/IP, Netware*, or EtherTalk™ or to Token Ring* configured to support Netware. And it will receive and process data over all its interfaces simultaneously. So it can be shared between multiple computers with different operating systems.

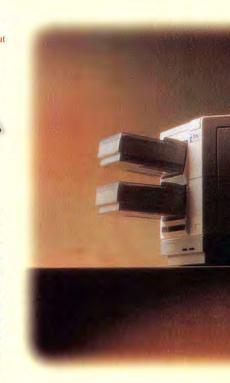
There was a time when we all worked MS-P individually. We each had a computer and we each had a printe Today, many of us work in group.

HOW TO SE NETWORK AMONG A HOST



interfaces

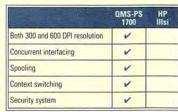
at once.



THE WALLEY

7 D We choose our computers for their ility to perform well within networks. Shouldn't the same iterion now apply to our printers?

T THE TRUE PRINTER OF IMITATORS.



You could compare the QMS-PS 1700 to the HP IIIsi, but there really is no comparision.

Apple" Macintosh"

Crown architecture.
Proprietary hardware
and software design
that makes our printers

The Network



Sun* Workstation



PC Compatible



The QMS-PS 1700 printed this file in

seconds. The HP" LaserJet" Illsi took

The Emulation Sensing Processor or ESP selects the appropriate printer language without time-consuming reconfigurations.



1-800-523-2696

Its input buffers increase throughput by spooling jobs so that host applications aren't hung up waiting for files to print.

The input capacity of the QMS-PS 1700 is 1,000 sheets. Output is 500. And there's an optional duplexer for two-sided work.

What's more, if a job is interrupted for any reason, this printer has the intelligence to reprint any needed pages and then continue with the job.

Its context switching capability preserves "states", such as fonts and macros, when switching between emulations so you needn't waste time downloading them each time an emulation is selected.

Storage capacity for font caching, and font or emulation storage, can be expanded with optional internal and external SCSI hard drives.

And there's even an optional System Security Card that lets the LAN administrator control settings and avoid the chaos that can result from unauthorized end-user adjustments.

The QMS-PS 1700 is quite a bit more than a laser printer. In fact, it's exactly what most work groups need but haven't been able to find. Until now. The QMS-PS 1700 is The Network Printer.



CIRCLE 51 ON READER SERVICE CARD.

Coming soon to a screen near v



Out of memory.

OK

running out of memory is to avoid running a couple of your favorite applications, think again.

Think about all those memoryhogging fonts and sounds you've got stuffed into that bulging System File.

Then do what over 200,000 Aachen

Stison

Berkeley

Bodoni

Bookman

Caledonia

Chicago

FreshSoriet

Futura

Galliard

Garamond

Helvetica

Italia

Janson

Lucida

MACHINE

Monaco

Optima

Palatino

Times Trump

Univers

Versaille

New York

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Zapf Dingbats

Lubalin Graph

Kabel Los Angeles

Avant Garde Baskerville

resourceful Mac users do every day.

Instead of closing your applications, open a Suitcase.™

Suitcase is the awardwinning utility that lets you park your growing collection of fonts, DAs, FKEYs and sounds outside the System File.

Thereby giving you the maximum amount of memory for running more applications, building bigger documents and doing other useful things.

What's more, Suitcase compresses your screen font and sound files by up to 60%.

Thereby giving you that much more precious disk space to work with.

It even lets you put your screen and printer fonts on a server for all to share.

Thereby making each disk on the network that much more spacious.

The more resources you have - and the more organized you are-the more memory and disk space you'll save.

But whether your dividends are measured in megs or merely in Ks, Suitcase is guaranteed to save you gigabytes of aggravation.

If you think the only way to avoid

Even if you're operating in System 7. Because System 7 still stuffs your resources into vour System File.

And System 7 still makes you close down all your applications and restart your Mac each time you install a new font.

Which is a real pain in the, uh, system.

Suitcase, on the other hand, gives you unlimited access to all your resources.

And total control over how you organize them.

Each suitcase can pack up to 800 fonts, 64 DAs, and any number of FKEYs and sounds.

You can group suitcases into sets, then summon all the luggage that

Can't remember the difference between Versailles and Monaco? Not to worry. Suitcase displays your typefaces right in the menu.

belongs with a particular project at the click of a mouse.

Tips are optional. But here's one for those of you who find font ID conflicts even more irritating than running out of memory. Get Suitcase. It eliminates them.

Call us at 1-800-666-2904. We'll tell you about our vaunted 24-hour toll-free technical support.

We'll also tell you that Suitcase is backed by a onevear money-back guarantee.

So you can be sure this baggage will live up to its claims.





If You Want to Program



How much does the inspiration to create truly great products cost these days? Just \$8.95 plus shipping and handling. Prenda Ueland probably never used a Macintosh. She may have never used a personal computer at all. Nevertheless, her book *If You Want to Write* is the best book about programming ever written.

Ueland, a writer, editor, and teacher, died in 1985 at the age of 93. Too bad — I think she would have loved to write with a Mac. You've probably never heard of her unless you're a writer. (If you're a writer who hasn't heard of her, something is wrong with you.)

This column explains how to apply her principles of writing to programming. I hope this is OK with her and that she forgives me if it's not. I have a feeling, however, that she's Up There, smiling. If you're not a writer or a programmer, you should buy her book anyway to help you get through life.

I have a selfish motive. People often send me software, because they think that their product is going to blow me away and compel me to write a column about it. Dream on. Ninety-nine percent of the software I receive is not worth booting. I donate most of this stuff to my church. Companies can save me a lot of trouble by sending their software directly to Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025; attention: Walt Gerber.

Seldom as it occurs, when I do see software I love, I call the company and try to buy a piece of the firm and perhaps get a seat on the board of directors. I call this the Guy's Golden-Touch Investment algorithm: "Whatever is gold, Guy touches." I've touched only three programs so far. I don't want to touch any more, but the Macintosh market could use a shot of innovation.

Talent and Originality

Ueland's book begins with a chapter entitled "Everybody is talented, original and has something important to say." It ends with a chapter entitled "He whose face gives no light shall never become a star' — William Blake." Get the idea? Her book is about creativity, freedom, integrity, and courage in writing (and programming).

Her book is for aspiring writers and the aspiring writer in all of us. It is not for prissy, self-centered, "successful" writers who have convinced themselves that they know it all and who are trying to convince others that writing is for the intellectually elite. She in-courages writers — literally putting the *courage in* writers — to break the "oughts" of writing and

to find ways to express themselves.

In the same sense, this column is for aspiring programmers and the aspiring programmer in all of us. It is not for prissy, self-centered, "successful" programmers who have convinced themselves that they know it all and who are trying to convince others that programming is for the technically elite. I want to in-courage programmers to break the shackles of what software reviewers, Apple, and *Inside Macintosh* think Macintosh programs ought to be.

How to Program

There are three kinds of Macintosh software today: incremental upgrades of existing programs; incremental rip-offs of existing programs; and bizarre, touristy dreck that should be sold in hotel gift shops. All three are the products of either small minds or big minds constrained.

If development of these kinds of software continues, Macintosh will be slimed by the Peter Principle of Computing: A computer rises to the level of incompetence of its programmers. The only way to stop and reverse the Peter Principle is to listen to what Ueland has to say. Here is what she would tell you if she were alive and if she were a programmer:

Program Freely. Have rollicking fun when you program. Program as if you were creating something for your friends. Make programming easy on and interesting to yourself, without fear of failure. Thumb your nose at the knowit-alls, critics, managers, and MBAs at least once a month, and program freely.

Program Recklessly. Ignore "market" requirements (the market usually doesn't know what it wants until it sees it). Go where no programmer has gone before. Add Excel, PageMaker, and RTF compatibility at the end. If ever. If you want to. Make history, not compatibility. Your goal is to create software so great that customers are willing to rekey data, so tell the world to kiss your SCSI port and go for it.

Program for Love. Programming is generosity. You have an insight or know a truth about how a computer can do something. You want other people to share it. So you program. Put your love for people into your program. It will touch people, and all of you will be the better for it. It may even sell — because people are willing to buy love on a disk. (If you want to see love on a disk, look at HAM, from Microseeds Publishing. This little jewel allows you to customize your Apple menu, and



Personalize the Look & Feel of your Macintosh

Colorful, 3-dimensional windows, buttons, scrollbars, and cursors are now just a click away. With ClickChange in the control panel, the User is master of the "User Interface".



ClickChange Cursors. Replace the 5 factory-issue cursors with fully animated custom cursors. Put some fun into waiting (well, OK— at least ease the tedium). Design your own cursors, and amaze your friends!



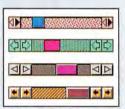
ClickChange Sounds. Set sounds to play when your Mac: starts up, shuts down, finishes loading all your INITs, beeps, inserts/ejects disks, and other major events. Import your own sounds and annoy your friends!



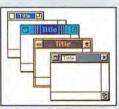
ClickChange Colors. Colorize your Mac's windows, menus, buttons, scrollbars and hilighting. Save color schemes to suit your every mood. Co ahead, live a little. Isn't color one of the reasons you're a Macli kinda' person?



ClickChange Buttons. Tired of those flat 50's style Mac buttons? Slip on one of our sleek, modern, 3D designs. It's what the next generation of computers is wearing these days.



ClickChange Scrollbars. Engineered to achieve maximum performance using our exclusive "proportional elevator" and "dublarrow" options. And, oh yeah... they look really cool, too.



ClickChange Windows. The perfect frame to display those fancy new 3D buttons and scrollbars in. Very stylish. Comes in a variety of colors and flavors. Dialog boxes and desk accessory windows get changed too.

ClickChange. \$89.95. Its Easy, its Compatible... and very, very Hip.

- Install by dragging ClickChange into your System folder.
- Requires: MacPlus or newer, System 6, and sense of humor.
- In Color! (where available).



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CIRCLE 23 ON READER SERVICE CARD.

GUY KAWASAKI

it adds a folder to the Apple menu that contains a directory of the items used recently. HAM shows some serious love of System 7 users.)

Program Honestly. Most software is dishonest. When you look at it, you can't believe that a programmer with a triple-digit IQ believes that this is the way things should work. Instead, the software is saying, "This isn't really what I think. The design specs said to do it this way." Or "My boss saw John Sculley demo something that had this kind of interface." Or "My boss saw this feature in an Apple video." Be honest. And be accepted or rejected on what you really believe.

Program to Infect. Great software leaps from a computer and infects people's brains. It makes their fingertips sizzle and their mouse button palpitate. Infection happens immediately or it doesn't happen at all. It won't happen because people try and try to like the program or because a reviewer says it's good. As you program, keep the goal of infection in mind.

Program for Intrinsic Rewards. Programming yields two intrinsic rewards. First, programming helps you understand your feelings better. Nothing forces people to understand themselves better than trying to communicate their feelings. Second, programming increases creativity: The more you use your creative power, the more creativity you will have. (Don't you wish PowerBook batteries worked this way?) No matter how many copies of your program you sell, if you program for intrinsic rewards, you'll reap satisfaction.

Program in the Present. To borrow a Ueland analogy, work like a child stringing beads: one bead at a time, unconcerned about what the necklace might look like with different beads. Ignore the rumors you read in MacWEEK about DAL, RISC chips, and cross-platform compilers. Instead, do the best you can with the present. If you wait for the perfect platform and the perfect object-oriented compiler, you may never finish anything. Create a product so great that people won't care about upgrading to the latest gee-whiz what-we've-shipped-but-not-perfected technology.

Program Anything You Want. Ueland quotes William Blake to illustrate this point: "Sooner strangle an infant in its cradle than nurse unacted desires." Ignore the forecast about market size in the year 2000 and the competitive analysis of the viability of various platforms. Tackle anything that fascinates you: a product for a NeXT computer, an Excel killer—even a

Macintosh database program. If your company won't let you do this, then quit. Have you ever met anyone who regretted quitting a job?

Program Microscopically. Take a close look at the software you've created. Does it show attention to detail? A fine eye? Empathy for the user? Forget "patentable, paradigm-shifting algorithms for the '90s," because great software comes down to minute details. Get out your microscope, and program software for mortals.

If you want to see products not programmed microscopically, look at Microsoft Word or Aldus PageMaker. Don't you love dialog boxes that contain three pop-up menus and nine buttons (Save, Cancel, Apply, Set Default, Apply Set, Apply Default, Default Apply, Default Set, and Default Default) plus four buttons leading to additional dialog boxes?

These products were programmed with a telescope. It must have something to do with being from the Pacific Northwest. Maybe there are spotted owls living in Word and PageMaker, so it's illegal to cut down the number of dialog boxes.

Program When You Are Discouraged.

Ueland quotes Van Gogh: "If you hear a voice within you saying: You are no painter, then paint by all means, lad, and that voice will be silenced, but only by working." No one — not Andy Hertzfeld, Bill Atkinson, Steve Capps, or Michael Jordan — ever woke up one day and was great. They make it look easy because they've worked hard. Great programming is opening up a vein and pouring blood onto a disk.

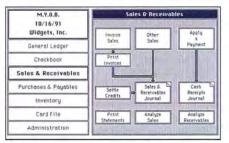
Or Your Money Back

In a rare moment of humility, let me tell you that I haven't done Ueland's book justice. If you are interested in programming or in working with programmers, run, do not walk, to your nearest bookstore and buy If You Want to Write. It is one of the few books I have read more than five times. I have so much faith in Ueland's book that if you buy it and it doesn't help you, I will give you your money back. I won't even say that about my books.

Here's the information you need to find it: *If You Want to Write* (ISBN 0-915308-94-0) by Brenda Ueland, Graywolf Press, 2402 University Avenue, Suite 203, St. Paul, MN 55114; (612) 641-0077 or (612) 641-0036 (fax); \$8.95 plus shipping.

But don't send me your software unless you think Ueland would like it, because my church's hard disks are almost full.

Incredible Accounting Software...\$5!



"M.Y.O.B. really takes advantage of the Macintosh interface...Command buttons ... are arranged in a flow chart. As a result, you don't need to be an accountant to know the order in which the command should be used."

MacWorld, November, 1991



"The forms customization feature is highly flexible and lets you change the look and content of printed checks, invoices, statements, purchase orders and mailing labels to give them a unique look and feel."

Mel Male, Reviewer



"Only a few programs make good use of the Macintosh interface, Teleware's M.Y.O.B. has one of the best interfaces."

MacWorld, October, 1991

Only M.Y.O.B. Has:

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Simple Screens. Invoices look like real invoices. Checks look like real checks. There's nothing new to learn.

Customizable Forms. Design your own invoices, statements, purchase orders, checks and mailing labels. M.Y.O.B. includes an integrated drawing program that lets you add text, draw lines and boxes, move and resize fields, and paste graphics.

Analysis Windows.

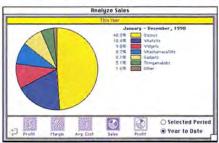
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- A/R & A/P Ages 30/60/90 day. Just click to go from customer/vendor summary to original invoice or purchase order.
- Inventory Interactive "order book" shows what's on hand, what's due from suppliers and what's back-ordered.
- . Balance Sheet Analyze this year, last year, this year vs. last year, or vs. budget.
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- · Cash Flow Projects your checkbook balance into the future.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

We're confident that M.Y.O.B. is the best accounting program available for your business. If for some reason you do not agree, return it within 30 days for a full refund.

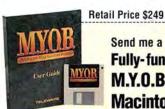
System Requirements: Mac Plus with at least 1 megabyte of memory; System 6.0 or later; hard drive with 2 megabytes of free space.

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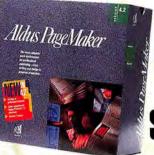
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PageMaker 4.2 now includes PrePrint 1.5, a color production tool that enables you to enhance and color-correct TIFF images, as well as generate color separations of multi-page documents, including text, illustrations and color photos. Aldus Corp. #4573 @ /

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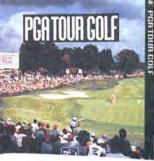
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Moriarty's



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In this fast-paced strategy game you'll travel the

world merging gametes and creating increasingly complex life forms. Inline Design #3494 @ /

Moriarty's Revenge

The infamous Dr. Moriarty is now leader of a world-wide crime organization. Only you can track him down and bring him to justice. Mysterium Tremendum #3290 @

3 in Three is an animated color puzzle game. A number 3 has become lost inside the CPU of a computer and needs your help to find its way

Fly your glider from room to room and get past

Tesserae is a color puzzle game in which the

to color and texture. Inline Design #3934 @ \

player eliminates tiles from the "board" according

numerous and varied obstacles. Casady & Greene

Spaceward Ho!

Spaceward Ho! is a strategic game of awesome scope. You control the entire military and economy of a space-faring race. Delta Tao #4116

Operation Tsunami -Color Version

You are a special agent sent to a remote island where a madman is planning to take over the Asian continent. Spph! Software #4993

Mutant Beach

To win Mutant Beach you must overcome amusingly mutated creatures, traps, false paths, locked gates and more to return the stolen nose to the island's idol. Inline Design #4252 @ /

Spelunks and the Caves of Mr. Seudo

Spelunx is a whimsical world with something fur for children to discover around every corner. Includes HyperCard 2.1. Brøderbund #4999 @ >

3 in Three

Glider 4.0

#4580 @ /

Tesserae

back to its spreadsheet. Inline Design #3599 @ /

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Spaceward Ho!

Armor Alley

Armor Alley is hot, and it gets hotter with every battle. Your job is to lead convoys of equipment and men through the enemy's lines and destroy his base. Three Sixty #3597 °

Starflight 2

The Spemin, once the "whipping blobs" of the cosmos, are now the galaxy's most feared race. Your mission is to find out why.
Electronic Arts #4346 • ✓

Patton Stri<mark>kes \$34</mark> Back

Patton Strikes Back is a radically different strategy game. Stunning graphics and digitized news relics keep you on the edge of your seat. Brøderbund #4998

Falcon V2.2 \$34

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Flight Simulator V4.0

Take off and land at any of the major airports of the world. Flight Simulator boasts 3-D graphics and runs on both color and B&W Macintosh computers. Microsoft Corp. #4293 ♥ ✓

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Join the forces in the gulf in this realistic full-color battle simulation! Bungie Software #4106





MouseStick \$78 ADB

Advanced Gravis' high-scoring MouseStick features advanced optical technology and a dedicated processing unit.

Advanced Gravis #2741 ✓

World Builder '

World Builder gives you all the tools you need to make your own professional-quality, standalone games, training programs, etc. on the Macintosh. Silicon Beach Software #4600 ✓

Nemesis Deluxe Tool \$75

Install the Nemesis Deluxe Toolkit into Go Master, and you have the most complete Go playing and tutorial system available. Toyogo #4494

Nemesis Go Master 5.0

Nemesis Go Master begins where Go Junior leaves off. It provides the best teaching and playing program available anywhere. Toyogo #4405 @ ./

Nemesis Go Master Junior #4493 819

Lexi-Cross

Do you like to solve puzzles? Lexi-Cross is a challenging futuristic, word-puzzle, TV game show parody. Interplay #0859 @ 🗸

Beyond Dark Castle

Beyond Dark Castle features stunning graphics, full-screen scrolling in the Castle's complex mazes and a flying jet pack you'll use to get over swamps and forests. Silicon Beach Software #1376 • ✓

Castles

With Castles you design the layout of your own medieval castle. How high should the battlements be? You decide. Interplay #4953

Battle Chess

The chessboard comes to life with Battle Chess, the first animated chess game. Pieces move and battle over the squares in full VGA graphics with digitized sound effects. Interplay #4134

Citadel

Your quest is to free the Lady Synd imprisoned by the Evil Wizard. You'll experience knockout sound and graphics as you create heroes, encounter magic and realistic combat Postcraft International #3129 0 /

Sargon IV

Sargon, the warlord who ruled the ancient world, challenges you to world-class chess like you have never seen before. Spinnaker #1916 • ✓

Dark Castle

Battle your way through the treacherous castle in this fast-paced arcade-style action game. Dark Castle's stunning graphics and smooth animation will take your breath away. Silicon Beach Software #0689 • ✓

Baseball: The Manager's Challenge

It's the bottom of the ninth, one out and your pitcher has the tying run on second, the winning run at the plate. Now it's all up to you. MicroLeague #4259



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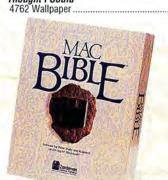
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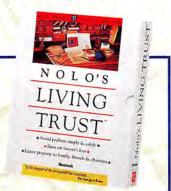
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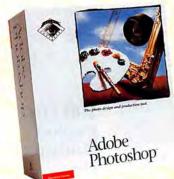
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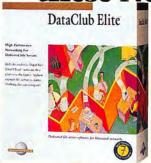
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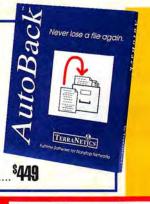


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When Less is More



You'll find four schemes for compressing data with Apple's QuickTime standard. The one scheme you won't find is the one to watch, though.

ompression is shaping up as a key technology for this decade. Part of what makes Apple's QuickTime quick is its compression algorithms. Compression is one of the gnarly roots of computer technology, with tendrils growing into mathematics and politics and art. It's the kind of technology that invites innovation.

Compression is closely related to encryption. I once published, only half in jest, what could be called the Paranoid's Compression Scheme. By throwing out nearly all vowels and a lot of consonants according to some simple rules, it produces text that is decipherable by a human being fluent in English but that would be difficult to decipher by mechanical means. Just the thing for those who think that the government is running their mail through OCR-equipped computer systems that scan for words and phrases with subversive connotations.

A compression scheme is judged in part by its compression ratio, which is a measure of how much it compresses its input. My Paranoid's Compression Scheme, in combination with other schemes, can achieve a compression ratio of 10:1; that is, it can reduce a 10K file to 1K, which is not bad. But the Paranoid's Compression Scheme is not exactly mainstream computer science. A more conventional compression scheme is null suppression.

There's a generalization of null suppression in QuickTime. Null suppression works with any kind of data, not just text, but it's easiest to explain in terms of text characters. Let's say you've built a table by carefully spacing your data to fall in neat rows and columns. If you transmit that data to someone, you'll be transmitting a lot of spaces along with the actual data. You can reduce the size of the file and eliminate the need for so many spaces (suppress the nulls) by replacing the spaces with a special character that indicates a run of spaces, followed by a number indicating the length of the run. If there are a lot of runs of spaces, you'll save a lot of space. If there are none, you should use some other technique.

Another technique in common use is Huffman coding, in which the most-common characters are assigned the shortest encoding. It's the operative principle in Morse code, in which the most-common letters in English prose, *e* and *t*, are represented by a single dot and a single dash, respectively.

All these techniques serve to define what compression is about: reducing the size of a chunk or stream of data by discerning and removing redundancy. Null suppression removes redundant characters, whereas Huffman coding removes redundancy statistically.

End Runs

As you can see from the case of null suppression, the effectiveness of a compression scheme depends on the nature of the data. QuickTime's compression schemes are designed to compress images. That's "schemes," plural, because Apple has supplied four compression techniques in QuickTime.

For example, there is the Animation Compressor. Based on one of the most common compression algorithms, it is a good example of how compression algorithms work. The Animation Compressor is an extension to the temporal domain of the standard PICT image format. That is, it not only compresses the images that make up the animation but it also gains some compression from looking at redundancy in the sequence of images.

The Animation Compressor removes redundancy by use of a technique called runlength encoding, or RLE. In fact, the PICT format itself is a compressed format, and it also uses RLE. RLE is just a generalization of null suppression, in which all kinds of runs, not just runs of blank characters, are replaced by a runlength code. RLE can be employed for any kind of data, and the Animation Compressor uses it to compress image data of any bit depth—that is, black-and-white and 2-, 4-, 8-, 16-, and 24-bit color.

RLE is a lossless-compression scheme, meaning that no information is lost in the compression. But there are also lossy-compression schemes, in which some detail is sacrificed to make the image file smaller. I say "image" because lossy schemes are most appropriate for image data, in which a loss of data merely affects the quality or resolution of the picture. In compressing text or numerical data, lossless compression is essential. Lossy compression of sound is difficult.

But QuickTime's Animation Compressor can operate in either a lossless or a lossy mode. In the lossless mode, it simply stores a series of RLE-compressed images, essentially a sequence of PICTs. In lossy mode, though, it stores some but not all of the images, retaining only enough information about the others to regenerate them with some degree of fidelity from the stored images. It does this by storing the differences between frames.



CIRCLE 38 ON READER SERVICE CARD.

MICHAEL SWAINE

Reconstructing an image from another compressed image and encoding differences from that image takes some time, which is why another measure of compression schemes, decompression speed, is important. The Animation Compressor is designed for real-time playback and can, under the right set of parameters, play back full-screen images at 30 frames per second.

Imperfect Symmetry

A compression scheme has to include compression as well as decompression algorithms. Decompression simply undoes the effect of compression, but that doesn't mean that there is a perfect symmetry between compression and decompression. One of the other compression schemes in QuickTime demonstrates this.

QuickTime's Video Compressor takes approximately six times as long to compress an image as to decompress it. It can decompress a full-screen image on a Mac IIcx in half a second but takes three seconds to compress it. The Video Compressor approach is designed for compressing 24-bit digitized video for later display. With both spatial and temporal compression — that is, compression of the image and of the sequence — it can achieve a compression ratio between 5:1 and 25:1.

QuickTime's Photo Compressor is based on a compression scheme that's fundamentally different from RLE. It uses the JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) scheme, which is in turn based on a mathematical technique called the discrete cosine transform, which transforms the hue, saturation, and brightness data in an image with two goals: (1) making it easy to discard the least important data, gaining compression at the smallest loss of picture quality, and (2) smoothing the data so that additional compression techniques—such as RLE and Huffman coding can be applied. The hue, saturation, and brightness information is read off an 8-x-8-pixel grid, which means that, to some extent, JPEG is resolution-dependent.

JPEG is ideal for natural images that have smooth transitions rather than lots of sharp edges. It is a lossy technique, but it can compress a 24-bit image at a compression ratio of 10:1 without discernible loss of detail. On that same IIcx, the same full-screen image would take about ten seconds to compress and ten seconds to decompress. The Photo Compressor is for photographic-quality images.

The fourth compressor supplied with

QuickTime is the Graphics Compressor, which is best for compressing 8-bit still images and movies when the decompression speed is not as important as the compression ratio. But QuickTime allows other compression algorithms to be plugged in, and it is here that we may see some intriguing developments in the future.

One algorithm likely to be plugged in to QuickTime by many third-party vendors is the MPEG (Motion Picture Experts Group) standard. MPEG is similar to JPEG in that it is based on the discrete cosine transform, but it compresses sequences of images temporally and is intended for video compression.

Nature's Own Algorithm

But the cutting edge in compression technology today looks as though it is fractal compression, a technique based on a frankly weird branch of mathematics. Proponents of fractal compression are claiming some very high compression ratios, several times as good as with JPEG.

I first came across the subject of fractals in the context of creating images, not compressing them. Graphics produced by means of fractal formulas have a disquieting similarity to nature. Fractal coastlines and mountain ranges, leaves and branches and blossoms lack the regularity we associate with computer-generated images, but more to the point, they have a kind of regularity we recognize in natural objects. A fractal image is produced by applying a simple rule to a simple image to transform it and then applying the same rule to the transformed image, and so on for as many generations as you like.

Michael Barnsley is one person who has been working intently on fractals and has worked out ways to use them for compression. The general idea is to reverse the process of creating images, but that's easier said than done. Barnsley's company, Iterated Systems, of Norcross, Georgia, has solved the problem and has products on the market. Because fractals use the same rule repeatedly, their essential features are scale-independent, and fractal compression is thus resolution-independent. Without application of any further conversion, a fractally compressed image should be displayable at any resolution.

If fractal compression lives up to its promise, before long you may be able to carry a 100,000-picture photo album of your kids in your pocket. Getting your friends to sit still while you show it to them will be another problem.



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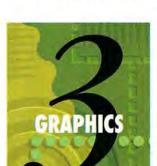
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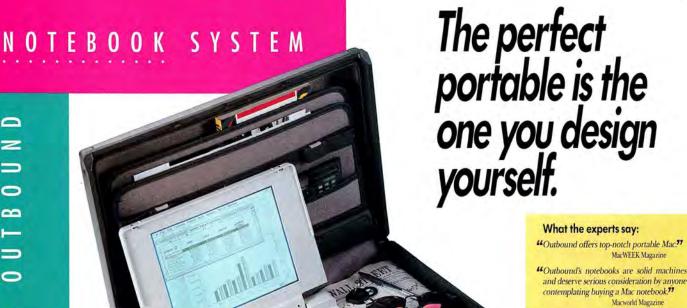
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By Russell Ito

The oracles of MIS: Most users' host databases are accessible only through the human oracles in MIS. But a spate of new analysis tools, such as the Eddy Award-winning DataPivot, now promises to give some of the oracles' power back to the people. ♠ MUSE (\$695), from Occam Research ([617] 923-3545), combines a



spreadsheet metaphor with a relational-database manager and a natural-language core for easy ad hoc analyses. Once you've decided which data you want to explore, you can search for and manipulate it, creating hierarchies, cross tabs, charts, and different views. Beyond that, MUSE's natural-language capability lets users query the database in standard English, as in "What were the sales totals for the Eastern region in the third quarter of the last fiscal year?" Importing data into MUSE is simple enough for most users to do themselves, and they can easily



modify the language dictionary as necessary. • **PowerPlay** (\$695), from Cognos ([617] 229-6600), uses a primarily graphical approach to analysis, letting you drill down through hierarchical graphs instead of viewing hierarchical data. You might, for example, start with a pie chart of your total overhead costs. Clicking on the Benefits slice

would produce a chart of your employee benefits, clicking on Health Insurance would yield a chart of the health-insurance costs, and so on. Because PowerPlay starts from simple text data, it can get its data from practically anywhere, although some data preparation is required. The oracles of MIS are losing their luster. With more-powerful — and -accessible — analysis tools available, users may soon find that the only oracles they need to consult are right on their desktop.

Up to Date . . .

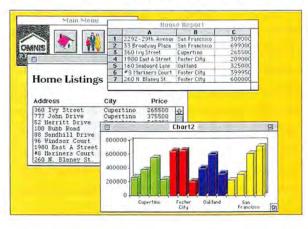
GreatWorks 2.0, Symantec's first upgrade to its integrated package, GreatWorks, supports 8-bit color in every module, includes a drawing layer, and is System 7-savvy. (800) 441-7234 or (408) 252-3570. \$299. ♠ On Cue, ICOM Simulations' popular application/file launcher, has finally been upgraded. On Cue III's features include access to your most recently used files and folders, the ability to launch multiple applications and documents, and five new utilities. (800) 877-4266 or (708) 520-4440. \$99.95. ♠ Radius' latest version of its Soft Pivot software lets the Color Pivot monitor display 24-bit color (16.7 million colors), using the internal video circuitry in the Quadras. (408) 434-1010. \$1,549. ☒

NEW ON THE MENU

Omnis Redux

It's been quite a while since we've heard from Blyth Software, but the developer of Omnis is back with Omnis 7, the successor to Omnis 5. Touted as a ground-up rewrite (which we are inclined to believe, because Blyth skipped Omnis 6), Omnis 7 promises relational-database developers the ability to create faster and easier-to-use database applications plus full cross-platform compatibility and

Omnis 7, Blyth
Software's powerful
relational-database
environment, offers
developers — and
users — crossplatform compatibility and an
improved Mac
interface.



QMS Challenges HP's IIISi

Nowhere is getting more done faster more important than in printing. Hewlett-Packard established a new definition for a business printer with its LaserJet IIISi, and now QMS has responded with its implementation of the same 17-ppm Canon NX engine: the QMS-PS 1700.

The QMS-PS 1700 uses a 25-megahertz Intel 80960CA RISC processor to drive the engine. In addition, the printer uses the same user-selectable resolution (either 300 or 600 dpi) that QMS first introduced in the 815 and 825 MR printers.

As a business printer, the QMS-PS 1700 offers a variety of connectivity options: Adobe PostScript Level 1 (PostScript Level 2 will be available as a ROM upgrade), HP PCL Level IV, and HP-GL 7550 emulations are all resident, and like previous QMS products, the 1700 can automatically sense the appropriate emulation to match the incoming print job and switch to it. The 1700 comes standard with RS-232C, Centronics parallel, and LocalTalk interfaces, and an Ethernet interface is available as a \$995 option.

The QMS-PS 1700 comes standard with 8 megabytes of RAM, and starting in March, QMS is shipping 8-megabyte SIMMs, which enables

memory to be increased to 32 megabytes. All that memory lets the 1700 preserve a page in memory, so if a paper jam causes a lost page in a print job, the 1700 can reprint the lost page, before it flushes the memory.

The QMS-PS 1700 comes standard with two 500-sheet paper trays and software for sequencing the paper supply and for other printing options.

QMS, Inc., One Magnum Pass, Mobile, AL 36618; (800) 523-2696 or (205) 639-4447. \$7,995.



The QMS-PS 1700 packs the same 17ppm Canon NX print engine as Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet IIISi but with active emulation switching and a choice of 300- or 600-dpi resolution.

compatibility with Omnis 5 applications.

Mac purists who disdained Omnis' previous iterations for not implementing a true Mac interface will be happier with Omnis 7, although they probably still won't be entirely satisfied. Omnis 7 does add such standard Mac interface elements as pop-up lists and hierarchical menus, but it also includes some Windows elements, such as "combo boxes," pop-up lists that include scroll bars.

Users in mixed-platform environments will benefit greatly from the latest version. Omnis 7 databases can support 451 simultaneous users, whether they're using a Mac or a PC with Windows, with full record locking. A database can have as many as 99 open files, and new data types include QuickTime support and list fields.

Omnis 7 includes a utility that lets users create ad hoc reports. Developers can supplement Blyth's report templates with custom templates, and developers will also benefit from a real-time debugger that checks for procedural and logical errors.

Omnis 7 is System 7-savvy, supporting Balloon Help, TrueType, publish-andsubscribe, and Apple events. Developers can also control Omnis 7 applications by using an Apple-events script. All this power comes at a hefty price, though.

Blyth Software, Inc., 1065 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Suite 300, Foster City, CA 94404; (415) 571-0222. Developers' kit, \$1,250; run-time kit, \$250.

Nisus Small

In an age in which the major word processors have gotten bigger, Paragon Concepts has introduced an alternative: Nisus Compact, a smaller version of the company's complete Nisus word processor that should be especially welcome for anyone using a Mac with a limited amount of RAM.

But before you start thinking that Nisus Compact is just a stripped-down version of its parent, here's a surprise: Paragon has actually *added* some features. Among the additions are a file-management system, a fuzzy-find option that can search on phonetic matches, and XTND support. Nisus Compact also boasts several features that should appeal to PowerBook users, including a small size (400K), a built-in battery indicator and clock, and a thick I-beam for easy editing.

Paragon Concepts, Inc., 990 Highland Drive, Suite 312, Solana Beach, CA 92075; (619) 481-1477. \$150.

SoundEdit Sounds Professional

Now under the MacroMind• Paracomp banner, the MacRecorder, the Mac's first sound-input system, has finally turned pro. The Mac-Recorder Sound System Pro is the long-awaited upgrade to Farallon Computing's original MacRecorder.

The biggest change to the package is its new SoundEdit Pro software. SoundEdit is now disk-based, letting you record, edit, and play back audio, free from RAM constraints. Because it's disk-based, there is also no limit on the number of audio tracks you can work with, so you can create a multitrack recording that's as complex as

you want. When you mix the tracks, you can control each track's volume level. SoundEdit Pro can accept sound input from any hardware device that supports Apple's Sound Input Manager. And for serious audio nuts, with the addition of an appropriate third-party audio card, SoundEdit Pro can even open and save 16-bit audio samples at rates as high as 48 kilohertz.

MacroMind•Paracomp, Inc., 600 Townsend Street, San Francisco, CA 94103; (415) 442-0200. MacRecorder Sound System Pro (includes Mac-Recorder hardware), \$349; SoundEdit Pro (software only), \$295.

Notify!: The Mac Pager

If you need to keep in touch with your office and a PowerBook with a modem still isn't enough, Ex Machina's Notify! may be the answer. Notify! is a wireless message center, otherwise known as a pager, that runs on your Mac and works either alone or with your applications to keep you in touch, regardless of where you are.

Running as a stand-alone application, Notify! lets you send messages from a Mac; the recipients get the full messages on a numeric or alphanumeric pager. After entering and addressing a message in Notify!, you send it, via Notify!, to a local paging service that passes the message to the recipient's pager. Using Notify!, the recipient gets a full message instead of just a phone number.

Notify! is a System 7.0 extension that fully supports Apple events and UserLand Frontier scripts, so other applications can also send messages directly to your pager. Some of the products expected to use Notify! soon are 4th Dimension, Quick-Mail, Microsoft Mail, MicroPhone, EtherPeek, LocalPeek, Net Watchman, and WordPerfect Office.

Notify! is available in both single-user and network versions. The network version lets several users send their pages through a single server on the net.

Ex Machina, Inc., 45 E. 89th Street, #39A, New York, NY 10126; (800) 238-4738 or (212) 831-3142. Personal version, \$149; network version, \$399.



Hewlett-Packard's HP DAT Macintosh Backup Solution puts the rugged DAT drive the company shipped as part of its rackstorage system onto the desktop. The 4millimeter DAT drive can store as much as 2 gigabytes on a single 90-meter DAT tape, and it comes with Retrospect Remote.

HP's Stand-Alone DAT

Having already introduced a DAT drive in its minirack storage system, Hewlett-Packard has decided that it's time for its DAT to go it alone. The HP DAT Macintosh Backup Solution (a singularly catchy name, eh?) is the company's first standalone, 4-millimeter DAT product for the Mac.

Because the drive offers a capacity of 2 gigabytes on a single 90-meter DAT tape, HP sees it primarily as a network device. With that in mind, it bundles the drive with a ten-user version of Dantz Development's Retrospect Remote backup and archiving software.

Hewlett-Packard Co., 19310 Pruneridge Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014; (800) 752-0900. \$3,295.

NewsLine

Reports and Analysis

Apple Plans Consumer Products

LAS VEGAS, NV — Having made a big splash in Las Vegas last October, when it introduced the PowerBook and Quadra lines, Apple Computer returned to the desert in January to outline a new product direction. Speaking at the Winter Consumer Electronics Show, Apple chairman and CEO John Sculley announced that Apple would enter the consumer-electronics market by the end of 1992. Sculley characterized the move as the third stage in an ongoing effort to broaden Apple's market presence.

The first products, expected to be available by Christmas, will include two lines of CD-ROM-based Macs, one of which will be aimed at consumer-electronics buyers and the other attraditional computer users. Both products will make use of QuickTime. Sculley predicted that such products will entice new users to enter the Macintosh market and then upgrade to more-powerful Macs.

In addition, Sculley announced plans for an entirely new line of digital products. Coining yet another TLA (threeletter acronym), Sculley described a collection of tightly focused PDAs (personal digital assistants) that might include electronic books and organizers. multimedia players, and video telephones. Sculley pointed to Apple's work in telephony and wireless research as an indication of the company's interests. To help get all these products to market, Sculley announced that Apple was seriously negotiating with several Japanese manufacturers. The Japanese firms will work with Apple as partners in producing Apple-brand products as well as devices that will use Apple's software technologies but appear under the Japanese companies' names. Sony is widely believed to be at the top of Apple's list of Japanese partners.

Apple's System 7 Tune-Up

CÜPERTINO, CA — Apple Computer has shipped System 7 Tune-Up, a free System 7 fixer that makes it easier to use System 7 in low-memory configurations and boasts improved print performance. The package includes new StyleWriter and LaserWriter drivers and fixes a known bug in the File Sharing extension. Tune-Up is available from user groups and BBSs or direct from Apple: (800) 947-5176.

WORD PROCESSING

Microsoft Word for the Macintosh 5.0

Microsoft succeeds at smoothing most of the rough edges from its popular word-processing program.

Users of Microsoft Word for the Macintosh 5.0 may not notice any improvements in the appearance of documents they create with the Mac's most popular word-processing program, but they will notice that creating those documents is faster and easier. New commands and tools plus enhancements to existing features add up to a finely tuned word-processing program that's more powerful and intuitive to operate than ever before.

Start Making Sense

Veteran Word users will find that version 5.0 works more intuitively than previous versions. New menus and commands make common tasks easier and add new talents to the program. The Insert menu, for example, provides a fast and convenient way to place document elements such as tables and graphics.

Version 5.0 enhances Word's familiar paragraph-formatting ruler with a new Ribbon bar, which sits atop the ruler. The Ribbon bar makes it easy to quickly change character formats; access Word's new drawing module, which lets you create simple graphics on the fly; show and hide invisible characters; or change the number of columns in a section — each with a single point and click.

Redesigned dialog boxes with pop-up menus make a variety of options less confusing. For example, if you want to specify a paragraph's leading at 14 points, regardless of how large the type is, you no longer have to enter -14. You can simply select Exactly from the new pop-up menu and enter 14.

Even more impressive is Word 5.0's addictive shortcut for text editing: You

can simply drag a selection to another location instead of using the two-step process of cutting and pasting the text. We'd like to see this feature extended to moving columns in tables and dragging selections between windows.

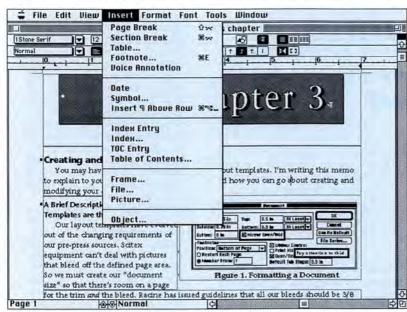
Word 5.0 also circumvents arcane keyboard combinations and the Key Caps DA by letting you select any character in the current typeface's character set from a table, using the Insert Symbol command. This version also takes much of the guesswork out of using keyboard command equivalents by making them more consistent with Mac conventions: Command A now selects all, for example, and Command B creates bold text.

You can access files quickly from version 5.0's File menu, which provides a handy list of the four most recently opened files. Another welcome addition is case conversion. You can specify a range of text to be all uppercase, lowercase, "title case" (initial caps), "sentence case" (only the first word of each sentence is capitalized), or "toggle case" (which changes the case of selected words from lowercase to uppercase and vice versa).

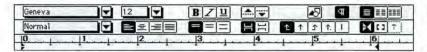
Word 5.0 has increased the 128-point type limit of previous versions to 16,383 points, which should be more than ample for most users. In addition, font collectors will be happy that the much reviled restriction on the number of fonts in the Font menu has finally been lifted. And last but not least, the magnifying-glass tool has been returned to the Print Preview window, so you can zoom in to take a closer look at a document.

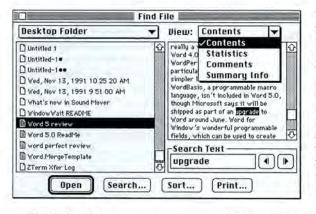
There's one caveat for those who rely on Word to work smoothly with Page-Maker: We encountered numerous problems pouring Word 5.0 documents into PageMaker layouts. This incompatibility is apparently due to changes in Word 5.0's file format, although the previous version of Word has no trouble opening documents created with Word 5.0. As we went to press, Aldus was putting the finishing touches on a special filter to combat this problem. The filter should be available by the time this review appears.

To date, the only way around this problem is to open Word 5.0 documents in Word 4.0 and save them in RTF format. Saving in RTF format within Word 5.0 is not advisable, because the document will lose such characters as bullets, em dashes, and smart quotes when Word 5.0-generated RTF files are opened with Word 4.0 or PageMaker.



Microsoft has done an excellent job of simplifying common tasks in Word 5.0. For example, the Insert menu, shown here, lets you place elements such as graphics, tables, and line breaks directly into documents.





The Ribbon bar (top), which sits atop Word 5.0's ruler, provides one-stop character formatting and column selection. The new Find File feature (left) is fast and powerful: For text searches, you can view the contents of a file and copy text to the Clipboard without ever opening the file.

The Write Tools

In addition to making common tasks easier and more accessible, Word 5.0 includes several powerful new tools. One of the most impressive is the Find File command, which can quickly compile a list of files on any volume that meet userdefined criteria. Because Word 5.0 lets you attach title, subject, author, version, and keyword information to each file summary, you can base searches on the contents of any of these fields as well as search for text that appears within documents. You can limit searches to only those files that Word can open, or you can search for other file types. Once Find File has compiled a list that meets your search criteria, you can view information, such as file statistics, about the files. If the file is one that Word can open, you can view its contents as well as copy text to the Clipboard, without ever opening the file.

New integrated writing tools add to version 5.0's versatility. The powerful built-in grammar checker can identify sentence structures that violate as many as 33 rules. The excellent built-in thesaurus lists antonyms as well as synonyms for selected words. The enhanced spelling checker automatically supplies suggestions, looks for misspellings based on word phonetics, and detects duplicated words and punctuation marks as well as words that run together.

Anyone who has ever struggled with Word's formula commands for setting mathematical equations will appreciate the new version's Equation Editor, a pared-down version of Design Sciences' popular MathType. It sports a graphical interface and uses Microsoft's Object

Linking and Embedding, so you can place equations and edit them directly within documents without cutting and pasting.

Word 5.0's Print Merge Helper greatly simplifies mail-merge. When you select the Helper, a ribbonlike strip appears at the top of your open document's window. The strip provides pull-down menus with selections that can automatically insert field names and conditional statements into documents, which eliminates the cumbersometask of typing angled brackets around fields. If you've never created a table or a database for mail-merge, the Helper can create a blank data file for you, link it to a document, and add the proper merge syntax.

Although Word's style sheets, outlining, and page-layout features remain virtually unchanged in the new version, a few new tweaks are worth mentioning. You can now specify custom borders and screen fills for paragraphs and table cells, so you can create text on a gray background without importing graphics or embedding PostScript code. You can also set borders (but not fills) for individual picture boxes.

The Insert Picture command lets Word 5.0 import PICT, EPS, and TIFF graphics directly, without use of the Clipboard. However, importing graphics is sometimes problematic, because Word's file converters can be very slow and occasionally quit before finishing their task.

In general, when it comes to style-sheet management, Word can't compete with WordPerfect's powerful capabilities. Although it's possible to create sophisticated layouts with Word, it's still not easy or intuitive, despite the addition of the Frame command, which is really a slight repackaging of Word 4.0's Position command. WordPerfect and Nisus, on the other hand, each offer more-powerful and easier-to-use layout capabilities. However, Word's ability to collapse an entire document into an outline, basing the outline structure on headings and subheadings, is a useful feature that's unmatched in any other word-processing program.

Word 5.0 offers full support for System 7 features such as publish-and-subscribe, TrueType fonts, Apple events, and Balloon Help. It also lets you embed objects from other programs, such as Excel. Embedding uses no edition files but actually embeds part of another application's document within the Word file. Word also emulates Windows' Dynamic Data Exchange with its Paste Link command, which can create a direct link between a Word document and another file, such as an Excel spreadsheet, without requiring an edition file.

The Bottom Line

If you're considering purchasing Microsoft Word for the first time, version 5.0 is an excellent value. A host of new features makes it easier to learn and use than previous versions. The addition of powerful new tools, such as the built-in grammar checker and thesaurus, combined with Word's unique outlining capability, make it the Mac's premier writing tool. Equally impressive is the new Print Merge Helper, which makes mailmerge as simple as selecting a few menu choices.

However, if you're a Word 4.0 user who's grown accustomed to that version's vagaries and you don't need specific System 7 features such as publish-and-subscribe, you may be better off setting aside the upgrade fee until Word undergoes another major revision.

- Eric Taub

Get Info

Microsoft Word for the Macintosh 5.0

\$\$\$\$1/2

Published by: Microsoft Corp., One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052; (206) 882-8080.

Version: 5.0.

List Price: \$495; upgrade, \$129.

GRAPHICS & DESIGN

SuperPaint 3.0

Improved color capabilities and a cleaner interface put SuperPaint back on track.

With the release of version 3.0, Super-Paint restores its reputation as a versatile integrated painting and drawing environment that won't cost you an arm and a leg. Although the program's original version set a milestone in Mac-graphics history by combining bit-mapped painting with object-oriented drawing, the program lost its way with version 2.0, which was hamstrung by a dismal color implementation. Super-Paint 3.0, however, addresses the entire spectrum of Mac systems — from black-and-white to 24-bit color — and offers improved tools for color handling.

Less Distress

Not only did the previous version of SuperPaint have an 8-color limit but you also had to use a separate mode to view colors. Even more distressing, you couldn't edit drawings in color mode. Version 3.0, however, features full-fledged color support for 8-, 16-, and 24-bit operation. You can define colors by using the RGB, HSB, or CMYK color models, and you can save custom palettes and edit artwork in color. Because the bit depth of documents is defined independently of your hardware, SuperPaint 3.0 lets you edit 24-bit images on 8-bit Macs. The program approximates colors beyond your working palette, using excellent dithers, so even an 8-bit Mac can access 16.8 million colors.

SuperPaint 3.0's redesigned interface makes it less visually cluttered, more logically arranged, and easier to use than previous versions. This version continues to use two smoothly integrated layers, one for drawing and one for painting. Each layer has a main palette brimming with tear-off subpalettes. Pop-up boxes segregate tools by function, a welcome approach that eliminates the need to scroll through the Tool palette to find the right tool. Tools available from the painting and drawing layer appear in one box, paint-only tools are located in another, and all selection tools are stored in a third.

The line-width selections, major usurpers of Tool-palette space in the previous version, now appear in a pop-up box on the Line & Fill palette. This palette also contains pop-up boxes for color, gradient, texture, and pattern selection as well as the transfer modes governing the interaction of fills. A third palette keeps your 12 most recent fills available for easy access, and a fourth displays drawing coordinates. Each of the four palettes can be toggled on and off.

Like version 2.0, SuperPaint 3.0 uses keyboard command equivalents to facilitate basic functions such as cut-and-paste and zoom operations. The new version goes one step further, however, by incorporating hot keys that let you access palettes and a variety of individual tools, each with a single keystroke.

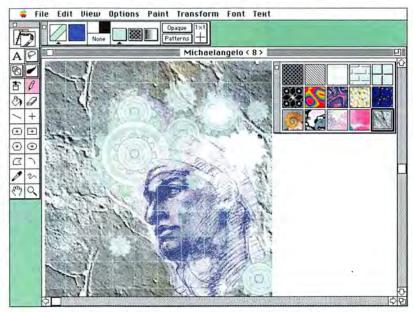
SuperPaint continues to add to its impressive collection of special-effects tools. New with version 3.0 are textures and gradients you can apply to any object in the drawing layer as well as to text, using any tool from the painting layer. Textures can exist as bit maps, objects, EPS files, or SuperBits (high-resolution editable bit-

mapped objects), and the program places no restrictions on their size — that's determined by the amount of memory in your Mac.

The program saves textures and color palettes in a special Pouch folder, but custom gradients, which can use as many as 256 shades, are saved with documents. You can make any additions to the default gradient palette by defining gradients without opening a document. The ability to save them independently to the Pouch, where all documents could access them, would be a welcome improvement.

Version 3.0's straightforward and easy-to-use masks are a wonderful addition to SuperPaint. In combination with new controls for color balance, brightness, and contrast — and added to the previous version's Lighten, Darken, and Diffuse commands — they give SuperPaint the ability to do basic image processing. You can also import scanned photos as SuperBits and edit them at high resolution for printing on anything from LaserWriters to Linotronics.

Although SuperPaint's chief strengths lie in the program's painting abilities, the drawing layer is quite adequate. It can't compete with the precision of pricier drawing programs such as Canvas or Illustrator, but it does provide an excellent Bézier tool as well as an auto-trace capability that transfers bit maps to the drawing layer. Unfortunately for technical



SuperPaint 3.0 features enhanced color support and includes 20 new textures. It also lets you add your own textures. The one shown here was created from a scanned image.

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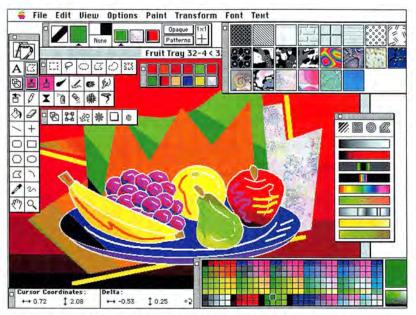
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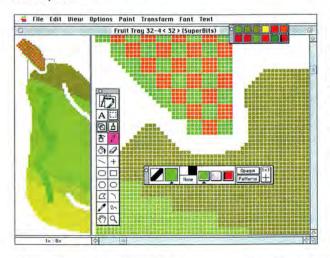


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CIRCLE 52 ON READER SERVICE CARD.



The new version of SuperPaint sports a redesigned interface loaded with pop-up boxes and tear-off palettes.



You can create editable bit maps in SuperPaint 3.0's drawing layer with SuperBits. In this 300-dpi image, each Mac screen pixel is represented by a matrix of 4 x 4 dots.

illustrators, the program's Replicate command cannot distribute objects around fixed points.

SuperPaint 3.0 supports the Paint, EPS, TIFF, PICT, startup-screen, and Super-Paint 1.0 formats. The new version uses a proprietary file format that is more efficient than the PICT format used in version 2.0: The files are smaller, so they're faster to read and write.

The program's text handling is excellent, no matter which layer you're working in. However, SuperPaint's single-level Undo is a drawback, as is its lack of a way to define selections by matching colors. We'd also like to see a magic-wand-like tool that lets you select a range of colors

or make selections that remain active during other operations. Reshapable palettes for the best use of screen space would also be useful.

According to the manual, SuperPaint 3.0 runs on any Mac equipped with at least 2 megabytes of RAM. If you're running System 7, however, 4 megabytes is the actual minimum configuration. SuperPaint is System 7-compatible, but it doesn't support specific System 7 functions such as publish-and-subscribe and Apple events. The manual is an informative reference, but its tutorial is weak. Fortunately for novices, the program is a snap to learn.

SuperPaint runs flawlessly, but it's no speedster. On a IIfx with a SuperMac

Spectrum/8•24 PDQ accelerator board, painting functions and dynamic transformations operated briskly. Other operations, such as saves, seemed abnormally slow, though. SuperPaint uses virtual memory to deal with large files, which slows everything down. The program exploits RAM as much as possible, however, so performance will benefit from a hefty allotment. If you plan to work with 24-bit color, we recommend at least a 5-megabyte hard-disk partition and 10 megabytes works wonders.

SuperPaint seems an obvious choice if you're planning to upgrade from a blackand-white Mac to a color machine. We were disappointed by the program's performance on a Mac Plus with a 2.5megabyte partition. The painting operations and transformation calculations were fairly quick, but general response, as in the case of fill selections and saves, was as slow as molasses. If you want only blackand-white painting capability, Studio/1 and Amazing Paint are more nimble and less expensive. At more than 1 megabyte, SuperPaint 3.0 is roughly six times the size of Amazing Paint and twice as large as Studio/1.

The Bottom Line

SuperPaint 3.0 is a vast improvement over the previous version, but it's not the final word in painting/drawing software. It doesn't try to match features with highend painting programs such as Studio/32 or PixelPaint Professional, nor do its drawing tools compete with those in Canvas or Illustrator. It is, however, an excellent, easy to use, all-purpose graphics tool that's priced competitively. Moreover, with its support for 1-, 8-, 16-, and 24-bit color, SuperPaint is versatile enough to grow with you if you're a Classic or LC user looking to upgrade to a more powerful Mac.

- Carlos Martinez

Get Info

SuperPaint 3.0

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Published by: Silicon Beach Software (a subsidiary of Aldus Corp.), 9770 Carroll Center Road, Suite J, San Diego, CA 92126; (619) 695-6956.

Version: 3.0. List Price: \$199.

CoStar's new ergonomically designed trackball beats the competition hands down.

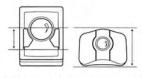


Old fashioned trackball

Stingray ergonomic trackball

A few years ago trackballs were a big idea. They provided more speed and precision than a mouse and took up less desk space. Unfortunately, over time they also felt big. And heavy. And uncomfortable.

Well, now there's a smaller, much more comfortable idea, The Stingray[™] ergonomic trackball from CoStar.



Unlike its predecessors, Stingray's no-miss buttons make up 70% of its surface area.

The Stingray was carefully designed to work with the human hand. Its low profile offers a natural position, reducing strain on the hand.

wrist, and forearm. The ball is 75% smaller and lighter. And the jumbo size buttons mean that no matter where your hand rests on the Stingray, it's resting on a button.

So, if you'd like all the advantages of a trackball with all the comfort of a mouse, give us a call. When you compare the Stingray to the pointing device you're now using we think you'll agree, there's just no competition.

Stingray lists for \$129. For more information on the Stingray ergonomic trackball or the dealer nearest you, call 1-800-4-COSTAR. In CT and outside the U.S., call





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PERSONAL-INFORMATION MANAGERS

Intouch and TouchBASE 2.0

Speed and more search options distinguish the network-ready TouchBASE address-book manager from rival Intouch.

If your organization is looking for a way to share a database of names and addresses over a network, look no further than Intouch and TouchBASE. Both programs can store the bulk of your company's names and addresses on a server while doing double duty as personal-address-book managers that allow users to store personal contacts locally. Of the two, Intouch has the superior architecture for network use, but we found that its general feature set couldn't compare with that of TouchBASE.

Intouch

Intouch is a DA that provides two fields per record: a name/address field and a phone number/notes field. This mix of multifield and single-field approaches works well, and the program's intuitive interface is a real plus. However, as with single-field databases, for most efficient searching, it's best to impose a structure on data entry. For fast dialing, for example, it's best to place phone numbers at the beginning of the second field. Intouch's phone-dialing options are many and powerful, and they should satisfy most users' requirements.

Intouch lets you search on any data entered in a record. Data entry is easy, and import and export procedures are straightforward. The only difficulty we encountered was in exporting to multifield address managers.

Intouch's most serious limitation, however, is that it displays only a single record at a time, so you can't select sets of records. When you search the database, you must issue a command to move from one record to the next. That's inefficient and slow and a decided drawback if you need to work with subsets of your address list.

In fact, Intouch's overall speed is a disappointment. With our test database of several thousand records, Intouch's search speed was noticeably slower than that of TouchBASE.

One of the strengths of Intouch is its

excellent envelope-printing capabilities. You can place graphics in return addresses, the program supports multiple return addresses, and there's a full barcoding option. Other printing options, however, aren't as impressive.

The network version, Intouch Network, supplies a server application that can run in the background on any machine on the network. Our test showed that because the software is client/server-based, all searching occurs on the server machine, which optimizes performance and eliminates unnecessary network traffic. Advanced Software also provides two-level password protection for the Intouch server database.

TouchBASE

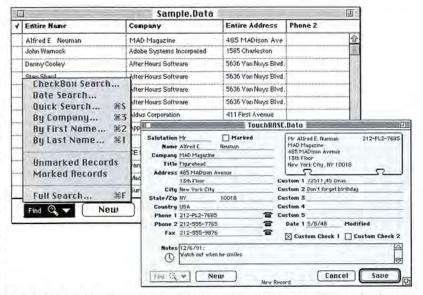
Like Intouch, TouchBASE is a DA, but it features several advantages over its competitor. Its multifield data-entry screen provides built-in artificial intelligence that eases the task of data entry. For example, the program automatically capitalizes the first letter in the first- and last-name fields. The program also supplies more-flexible search capabilities and options than does Intouch.

TouchBASE's search speed is impressive. Relative to other address-book programs, TouchBASE is considerably faster than Intouch and Address Book Plus but a tad slower than Dynodex and Quick-DEX II. And whereas the first version of TouchBASE was infamous for the size of its databases, version 2.0 is far more conservative with file size. Phone dialing is easy, and the program provides a complete range of options.

TouchBASE's printing capabilities provide just about any option you can think of, including envelope printing, fax cover sheets, labels (it has lots of predefined templates), double-sided address books, single records, and listings. Some of the fancier print operations are far from speedy, but they get the job done.

For network use, TouchBASE databases must reside on a dedicated server. As a multiuser program, TouchBASE performs well.

Special features include Balloon Help, the cheapest price around for FiloFax and Dayrunner paper (\$9.95/100), and the ability to export data directly to Sharp Wizard hand-held computers.



TouchBASE is a DA that can serve as both a personal-address-book manager and a shared network database of names and addresses. You can opt to view your data in list form or as individual records in a Rolodex-style format. The program's multicriteria search options are among its chief strengths.

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Intouch sports an easy-to-use interface and superior network architecture but suffers from lackluster search capabilities and speed.

Both TouchBASE 2.0 and Intouch are System 7-compatible, although neither supports System 7 features such as publish-and-subscribe and Apple events.

The Bottom Line

We commend Advanced Software for Intouch's client/server architecture, which is a real plus for network use. But when it comes to essential features such as search capabilities and speed, Intouch can't compete with TouchBASE. Touch-BASE's multicriteria search options make it a more powerful address-book manager, and its speed comes close to matching that of Dynodex and QuickDEX II, two other address-book programs renowned for speed but lacking the network option offered by TouchBASE and Intouch. Whether for network or personal use, TouchBASE is an excellent tool for handling large address-book databases.

Steven Bobker

PAINTING & IMAGE EDITING

Aldus Gallery Effects

Aldus' filters give artists and dilettantes alike a shortcut to a wide variety of stunning image effects.

Instant gratification is the name of the Aldus Gallery Effects game. The package, aimed at artists and desktop publishers, consists of a wide variety of filters that gives scanned graphics the look of natural, or nonelectronic, media. They include various brush strokes, watercolors, charcoal, spatter paint, fresco, poster edges, craquelure (which looks like a rough tiled-plaster surface), chrome, and graphic pen (a high-contrast style especially well suited for laser-printer output).

The GE filters are also capable of some esoteric special effects such as chrome and mosaic, and they can do strange things to existing digital artwork. To extend the filter's abilities even further, users can combine them to create bizarre visual effects that look nothing like natural media.

Filter This

The GE filters can be used in conjunction with Digital Darkroom, SuperPaint, or Photoshop. For those who don't own one of those applications, the package also includes a stand-alone application and a DA that supply simple brightness, contrast, and color-correction controls.

Using Gallery Effects is simple: You can apply the filters to an entire document or a selected area. The maximum size of the area is determined by the application. For example, Photoshop allows the filters to be applied to large images, because it has native virtual-memory abilities, whereas the GE application and DA are limited to available RAM. Special selection modes such as feathered selections and alpha channels found in supported applications are fully compatible with GE.

GE's interface is impressive: When you invoke a filter, you're presented with a thumbnail display of the document or selected area as well as various controls, which differ depending on the filter. GE encourages experimentation by allowing you to select a subsection of a thumbnail and then preview the effects, and it lets you try different settings without processing the entire image.

When you're happy with an effect, you can apply it to the entire document or just to the selection. You can change each

Get Info

Intouch

ttt

Published by: Advanced Software, 1095 E. Duane Avenue, Suite 212, Sunnyvale, CA 94086; (800) 346-5392 or (408) 733-0745.

Version: 1.1. Price: \$69.95.

TouchBASE

tttt1/2

Published by: After Hours Software, 5636 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite B, Van Nuys, CA 91401; (818) 780-2220.

Version: 2.0. Price: \$125.



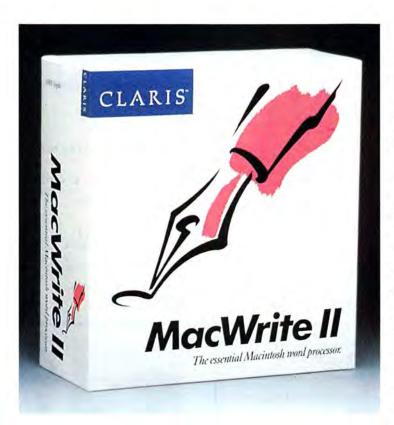






With Aldus Gallery Effects. you can create stunning visual effects easily and quickly by applying filters to scanned images and original artwork. Here, moving clockwise from the lower left corner, are the Watercolor, Smudge Stick, and Craquelure effects. The final effect is an example of multichannel filtering. which we created by using GE from within Photoshop (Graphic Pen applied to red channel, Smudge Stick applied to green channel, and Chrome applied to blue channel).

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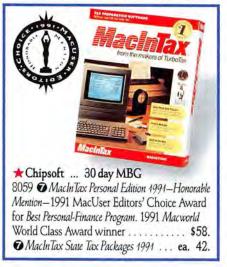
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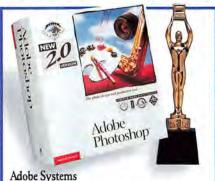
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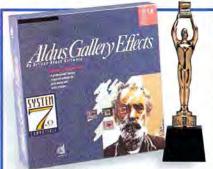
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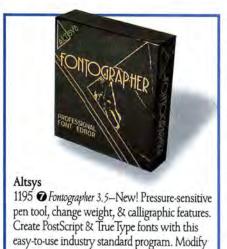
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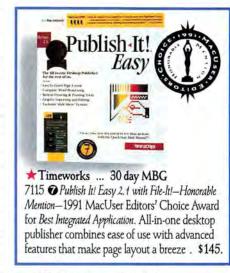


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7270	8 Backmatic 2.01	
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4803	O Virex 3.5	
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	Microseeds Pub 60 day MBG	
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4471	QuickBasic 1.0.	64.
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94

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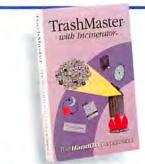
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	Carmen Sandiego Series (CP) ea. 29.
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	(Spanish, French, German, Italian) ea.	35
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1562	3 in Three	31
1944		31
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3520		29
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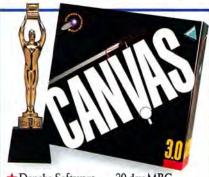
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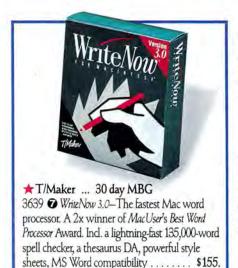


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2448	RunPC/Network
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9634	
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4089	OUniversal SoftPC 2.5.	
3229	⊘ SoftAT 2.5	299
3441		699
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7459	CarbonCopy Mac 2.0 (single)	59
1556		179
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9444	Microsoft Mail 3.0 (1-5 user)	269
72.77	★Orange Micro 30 day MBG	
2392		799
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8994	2400 V.42 bis Modern	199
7934	PM9600SA Modem 1.26	469
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2590	ProModem 2400 Mini Plus	129
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3831	ProModem 9600M-EC	375
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3444	NetSerial 1.35
4347	NetBridge or 4942 @TeleBridge 409
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1100	Sitka/TOPS
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	Software Ventures 30 day MBG
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6618	O VersaTerm 4.6 90. 6619 PRO 3.6 177
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1781	GraceLAN Update Mgr. Single Zone 169
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3535	
3544	© Exodus 3.0
1168	MX2400R Modem (w/ QuickLink II) 69
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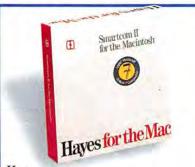
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2262	Xceed Color 30 Card (SE/30) 279.
2260	Xceed Gray-Scale 30 Adapter Card 75.
	Peripheral Land, Inc. (PLI)
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2325	PLI Infinity Optical Drive
2644	Quantum 52 MB External 479.
8330	PLI 105 MB 619.
2327	PLI 2GB DAT Drive
	PSI Integration, Inc.
3135	PSI MultiColor
3137	Crunch-It! LC
	Sigma Designs
1501	DoubleUp with ODiskDoubler 3.7 179.
1	Total Systems 30 day MBG
7817	16 MHz Mercury 030 (for Mac SE) 359.
7816	20 MHz Gemini 030 799.
	68882 Math Coprocessors call

MEDIA

	* Fuji	***	60 day MBG			
2214	31/2"	DS	Disks (10)	9.	2242 (50)	32
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Hayes
2300

 Smartcom II for the Mac 3.3—Powerful communications software made easy. Features "Autopilots" for automatic dialing & log-on, programmable buttons, as well as support for MultiFinder & a variety of transer protocols \$84.

4863	31/2" HD Disks (20) w/storage case \$26.
2243	31/2" Color (10) DS 10. 2239 HD 18.
	Fuji 1/4" Data Cartridges call
5345	DG60M
1	Sony 60 day MBG
3297	31/2" DS Disks (10) 9. 6148 (30) 25.
3298	31/2" HD Disks (10) 15. 6375 (30) 42.
1603	DG60M 16. 2520 DG90M 22.
	Sony 1/4" Data Cartridges call
7	SyQuest 60 day MBG
6592	44 MB Cartridge 69. 9728 (10) 649.
3603	88 MB Cartridge 110. 3600 (10) 999.
1	*3M 60 day MBG
3943	DC2000 40 MB Data Cartridge

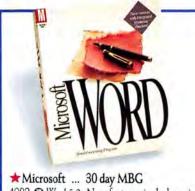
ACCESSORIES TONERS, CASES, DUST COVERS

	Apple Computer
9773	StyleWriter Ink Cartridge
7748	Personal LaserWriter Toner Cartridge 87
1115	LaserWriter II Toner Cartridge 105
1	Avery 60 day MBG
7050	Avery 5660 (1" x 25/6" Clear AdrsLaser) . 32
4811	Avery 5182 (81/2" x 11" TransLaser) 22
5392	Avery 5196 (31/2" Disk Labels-Laser) 29
4807	Avery 5160 (1" x 25/a" Address-Laser) 24



★Softsync, Inc. ... 30 day MBG
7129 ★Accountant, Inc. 3.0—1991 MacUser
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"The most complete integrated accounting and financial mgmt. package," MacUser (3/91). \$335.
3828 ★Accountant, Inc./MultiUser 1.0...... 569.

,	Basic Needs 60 day MBG	
	Full line of Dust Covers, etc.	cal
	Curtis Manufacturing 30 day MBG	
8973	Apple Security Kit (SL-2)	22
,	Goldstein & Blair 30 day MBG	
8374	The Macintosh Bible (with disks)	25
1	I/O Design 30 day MBG	
	Full line of Dust Covers (teal green)	cal
8812		
3371		75
1941	Ultimate LC Carrying Case	95
	Kensington 30 day MBG	
	Full line available. Partial listing.	
4973	Power Tree 20	27
2559	Apple Security Kit.	33
9303		
6763	Mac SE Anti-Glare Filter	52
5064	Apple Color Monitor Polarizing Filter	63
	MacConnection 60 day MBG	
1505	Oak Disk Case (36) 21. 4623 (90)	32
	Moustrak 60 day MBG	
2694	Moustrak Pad (7"x9"). 8. 2692 (9"x11")	. 9
2693	Moustrak Pad Low Friction (9"x11")	10
	MousGlove (assorted colors) ea.	
	Targus 60 day MBG	
3617	Mac Classic/Plus/SE Case	59



4902 Word 5.0—New features include an integrated grammar checker, Drag-and-Drop text, and a new Print Merge Helper. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, Word offers all the tools you need to make everyday easier \$295.

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4930	OmniPage Professional 1.01 669.
	CoStar
1884	OLabelWriter II
1418	AddressWriter 498.
	Stingray ADB (platinum or black). ea. 89.
	★ Curtis Manufacturing 30 day MBG
8046	MVP Mouse (MVP-1) 89.
	★Datadesk 30 day MBG
9830	MAC101E. 129. 2384 with QuicKeys. 149.
6901	Switchboard (modular keyboard) 159.
	★Everex 30 day MBG
1144	Silhouette Trackball 1.0 (ADB Macs) 78.



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HP ScanJet IIc (color)
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Koala
MacVision Gray-Scale Digitizer 3.5 259.
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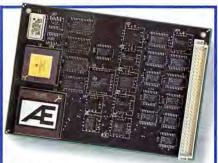


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FastCache—Highly-rated FastCache is now available for the Mac IIci, IIsi & the Ouadra 700 or 900. Mac IIsi version includes adapter and optional FPU. Quadra version increases speed up to 40%. see line listing.

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Gallery Effects lets you select a portion of an image to quickly preview the effects of a particular filter.

effect's look in subtle or substantial ways by setting up various parameters. Up to 25 custom setting combinations can be saved for each filter.

Although some of GE's effects, such as emboss, ripple, and film grain are similar to those created with other image-manipulation programs and some effects are easy for savvy Photoshop or ColorStudio users to duplicate, GE's appeal is that the effects are only a click away for even the most fumble-fingered aspiring artist.

Animator, a bonus application that should be included in the GE package by the time this review appears, was still in beta form at press time. Animator is a SuperCard-based interface for XCMD versions of the filters. You can use Animator to process a PICS file with a GE filter, and the program even lets you interpolate filter settings in a selected frame range (sorry, you can't interpolate among different filters).

The Bottom Line

Desktop publishers and artists will find Gallery Effects a useful, if not a downright fun, addition to their existing electronic palettes. When you combine it with other filters and effects in Photoshop and Digital Darkroom, you can easily extend the potential range of GE effects to new vistas.

David Biedny

Get Info

Aldus Gallery Effects

Published by: Aldus/Silicon Beach Software, 9770 Carroll Center Road, Suite J, San Diego, CA 92126; (619) 695-6956.

Version: 1.0. List Price: \$199.

SCANNERS

HP ScanJet IIc

Top-notch hardware teamed with innovative software makes HP's new color scanner a winner.

Achieving a good-looking color scan the first time around has been more wishful thinking than a reality for most users of affordable color scanners. Until now, that is. The new HP ScanJet IIc, with its winning mix of well-designed hardware and innovative software, helps you get a near-perfect match between what goes into your scanner and what comes out of your printer, on the first try.

Winning Combination

To test the HP ScanJet IIc, we used the same set of tests we used for our most recent color-scanner lab report ("Capturing Color: 24-Bit Scanners," December '91, page 152). The results showed HP's new scanner to be the best in its class in both hardware and software.

The ScanJet impresses from the moment you open the box. Other scanners use a removable screw that locks the scan head for shipping, but HP uses a locking lever that's built in to the scanner itself. There's no screw to lose, and the lever is so easy to use that you'll find yourself locking the scan head more often, thereby increasing its life span.

The bundled DeskScan II scanning software comes with an excellent installer, similar to the Apple system-software installer. The HP model is smart enough to install the proper scanning software for the system you're using — System 6 or 7.

For those who encounter problems during scanning operations, HP's on-line help is among the best we've seen, and the manual offers a variety of useful tips.

HP also bundles Zedcor's DeskPaint DA, but its minimal image-retouching abilities are a far cry from those offered by a true image-manipulation program such as Adobe Photoshop. In fact, the most glaring fault of HP's package is its lack of a plug-in for Photoshop or Color-Studio. This would be totally unforgivable, were it not for DeskScan II's excellent calibration ability, which allows it to fill in quite handily for Photoshop's and ColorStudio's image-tweaking tools. However, the software doesn't compensate completely for the lack of a plug-in. because some users may want to use Photoshop or ColorStudio to create special effects, and the bundled software can't fill the gap.

In its favor, DeskScan II makes the calibration process a breeze. Using your favorite graphics application, you save the calibration targets provided with the package as files and print them. One target consists of gray swatches, for black-and-white printing, and the other of colored swatches, for color printing. You print both targets if you're using a color printer.

You then scan the printed targets, and DeskScan II creates a calibration for your printer. If all goes well, you're almost guaranteed a scan that's perfectly matched to your printer.

We used DeskScan II to create calibrations for a QMS ColorScript 100 Model 30 (a PostScript thermal-waxtransfer color printer) and then scanned



The HP ScanJet IIc is tops in its class for fast, affordable color scanning.

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CIRCLE 114 ON READER SERVICE CARD.





With HP's DeskScan II scanning software, it's possible to get near-perfect results with the first scan. Calibration techniques boost image quality dramatically: The image at left was produced without calibration, the image at right with calibration.

two color photos plus a Kodak Q60 color test target. We also tried scanning the images without calibration. The printed results showed dramatic improvements in image quality with calibration.

Too Many Cooks

We also tested calibration with the Tektronix Phaser IIIPXi, a PostScript Level 2 phase-change color printer. This time around, however, the results were a bit problematic. The printed image of children's faces from a scanned photo had an odd color cast due to the combination of the scanner's calibration, the Phaser's own built-in calibration, and PostScript Level 2's calibration. Without a way to integrate these various color-calibration schemes among scanners, applications, and printers, users may encounter idiosyncrasies with some printing devices.

DeskScan II also provides several image-adjustment controls. A convenient exposure feature automatically adjusts scans to accommodate ranges in highlights and shadows. You can also manually select highlights and shadows as well as adjust hue and saturation and create custom tonal curves. Adjusting the settings for brightness, contrast, and size, however, is a bit awkward. The software provides sliding markers that are hard to set at exact values.

HP combines its excellent color-calibration technology with one of the best scanning engines we've seen. Our tests for resolution, consistent tracking of the scan head, and color accuracy showed the HP ScanJet IIc to be a top performer. In addition to scanning at an optical resolution of 400 dpi, the ScanJet can also interpolate to a resolution of 1,600 dpi, which is especially crucial for scanning detailed line art.

The 400-dpi resolution is a plus for OCR operations. HP plans to offer a \$695 automatic sheet feeder — a must for any serious OCR work — which should be available by the time you read this.

The HP ScanJet IIc uses a one-pass scanning method that makes it one of the fastest color scanners we've seen. It also provides time-saving color previews that dynamically display any changes you make to the scan, such as exposure, hue, and saturation modification.

The Bottom Line

The HP ScanJet IIc sets a new standard for affordable color scanners. Its engine is fast and well engineered, and HP's innovative color-calibration software makes hassle-free, "true"-color scans a reality. Priced at less than \$2,000, the HP ScanJet IIc is a best buy in its class.

- Paul Yi

Get Info

HP ScanJet IIc

\$\$\$\$1/2

Manufactured by: Hewlett-Packard Co., 19310 Pruneridge Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014; (800) 752-0900. List Price: \$1,995. UTILITIES

Help!

This new diagnostic tool does a great job of flagging incompatibilities and conflicts in your Mac's system.

If you're leery of the compatibility problems stemming from the move to System 7, are perplexed by the contents of your System Folder, or are just trying to track down an annoying INIT conflict, there's no need to fret. Help's on the way in the form of a new software program called — you guessed it — Help!. This technical-support software not only analyzes systems and highlights potential problems but it can also suggest possible solutions to whatever may be ailing your Mac.

Undergoing Analysis

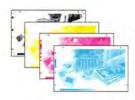
After launching Help!, you use a dialog box to select the volumes you want to analyze. Help! creates the appropriate report, which may include an analysis of one or more hard drives, servers, or floppy-disk drives. You can analyze your present configuration or find out how it would react to changes in the startup volume or system software. Choosing one of eight simulated system versions gives you a glimpse of any problems that may occur as you switch from System 6 to System 7 or to any of the interim system releases.

Depending on your Mac's configuration, Help! takes a minute or two to
generate a report. When it's finished, a
portion of the report is displayed onscreen, where you can peruse or print it.
Using Help!'s unique pop-up menus located at the bottom of the program window, you can quickly jump to the contents
that most interest you. A full report
contains separate configuration and diagnostic sections, which are broken down
into 17 subjects. You can omit items to
create custom reports.

The Configuration section of Help!'s report contains detailed information about your System Folder, applications, fonts, DAs, drivers, system settings, SCSI



Microtek removes the biggest barrier to owning a Slide Scanner



If price has been the barrier separating you from high quality color scanning, take a look at the ScanMaker 1850.

Another stunning price breakthrough from Microtek,

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The ScanMaker 1850 gives you everything you need to go from comps to final color separations. It even comes bundled

with PhotoStyler for the PC or Adobe Photoshop for the Mac.

But wait, it looks even better when you see the



price. Just \$2,499 for the ScanMaker 1850 on the PC. And only \$2,699 for the Mac compatible ScanMaker 1850S.

Call 1-800-654-4160 or 213-321-2121 in California for the name of the

Microtek authorized dealer nearest you.

Because the only barrier between you and a 35mm color scanner now is a

toll-free phone call.

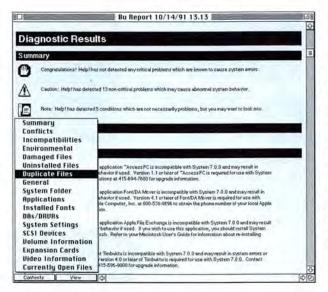


The ScanMaker 1850 is just one member of a whole family of affordable desktop peripherals available from Microtek.

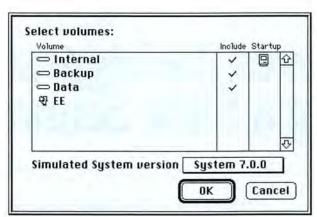


*Microtek Lab, Inc., 680 Knox Street, Torrance, CA 90502, (213) 321-2121 (800) 654-4160 *Microtek International, Inc., No. 6 Industry East Road 3, Science-Based Industrial Park, Hsinchu Taiwan, 30077, R.O.C., 886-35-772155 *Microtek Electronics Europe, Grabh., Schiess-Straße 72, D-4000 Düsseldorf 11, F.R. Germany, 49-211-526070 * ©1991 Microtek Lab, Inc. All rights reserved. ScanMaker 1850 and ScanMaker 1850s are trademarks of Microtek International, Inc. PhotoStyler is a trademark of U-Lead Systems, Inc. Adobte Photoshop is a trademark of Adobte Systems. Inc. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Applications of Page 1870 and Page 1870

REVIEWS



Help! is a powerful diagnostic tool for your Mac. The program's wellorganized reports document system incompatibilities, analyze their source, and identify potential problems. Here, a pop-up menu makes it easy to locate specific system information within the report.



You can find out how your Mac is likely to react to System 7 before you install it by using Help!'s simulated version.

devices, storage volume, expansion cards, video, and open files. This is similar to the information provided by Ken McLeod's MacEnvy freeware control panel (available on ZiffNet/Mac) and Now Utilities' Profiler application.

Tracking Down the Problem

The configuration information tends to be quite technical; the Diagnostics section, on the other hand, is more practical for tracking down potential problems. Damaged, uninstalled, and duplicated files are identified, but it's up to you to fix, install, or delete them, using a program such as Norton Utilities for the Macintosh or SUM II.

Although Help! doesn't fix the problems it detects, it consults its extensive Knowledgebase and offers suggestions on how to resolve critical situations, conflicts, and incompatibilities. The Knowledgebase contains rules culled from testing labs, developers, on-line discussions, and Apple's Compatibility Checker. Rules can specify that one INIT needs to load before another, for example, or that an application's Help file must be in a particular folder. Rules are the heart and soul of Help!. The Knowledgebase currently contains 2,500 rules, and Teknosys plans to add roughly 1,000 new rules per quarter on a subscription basis.

When Help! identifies an incompatibility, it displays the name of the problem file, briefly explains the nature of the conflict, and suggests a course of action (usually "contact the publisher for an update"). Publishers' telephone numbers are listed, but the information would benefit greatly from the addition of fax numbers as well as local numbers when only toll-free numbers are given (toll-free lines are often extremely busy and are

notoriously inaccessible from outside the U.S.).

Most of the incompatibilities listed by Help! are of the generic "this program is incompatible and may result in system errors or irregular behavior" variety. In practice, the majority of these tagged programs work just fine. The only problem is that they're outdated and Help!'s Knowledgebase rules pertain to new versions of the programs only. Teknosys is in the process of adding more rules to the Knowledgebase and rewording error messages to eliminate this ambiguity.

The Bottom Line

Although Help! can't fix an ailing system, it's the best tool we've found to date for spotting problems and identifying their sources. Moreover, its simulated system software provides a great way to flag prospective problems before you move to System 7. As its Knowledgebase grows, Help! promises to become an invaluable diagnostic tool, especially if it receives support from developers. Some additional features we'd like to see in future versions are user-defined rules and automated corrective action for identified problems. Even so, the current version of Help! leapfrogs Apple's Compatibility Checker and runs rings around competitors such as Baseline Publishing's INIT-Info Pro, a \$70 HyperCard stack that consists primarily of unsubstantiated bug reports drawn from on-line discussions.

By contrast, Help! reports are consistent and are formatted in a useful and attractive layout. Overall, Help! is an impressive technical-support program that belongs in the shirt pocket of every Mac MIS administrator. Individuals may need Help! only periodically, but it can shed light on a variety of mysterious system misbehaviors.

— Owen W. Linzmayer

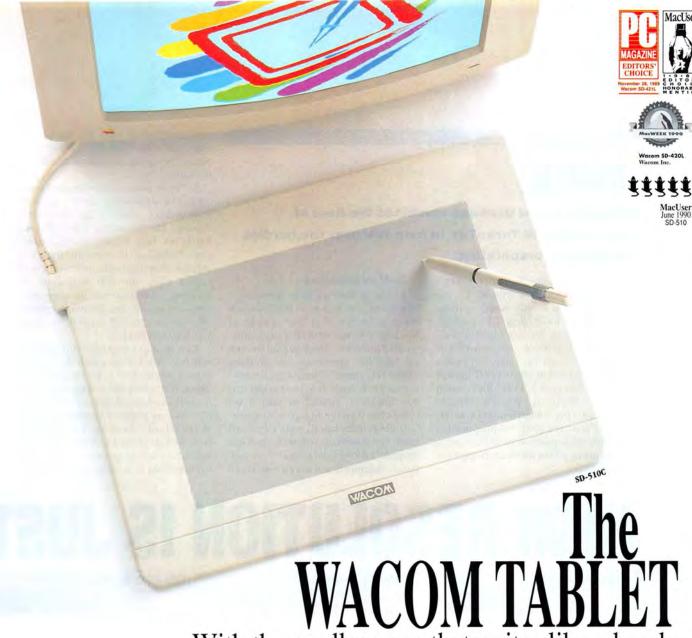
Get Info

Help!

Published by: Teknosys, Inc., 3923 Coconut Palm Drive, Suite 111, Tampa, FL 33619; (800) 873-3494 or (813) 620-3494.

Version: 1.0.

List Price: \$149; quarterly Knowledgebase updates plus any program updates, \$75.



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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

MacInTax

ChipSoft's new package combines the best of MacInTax and TurboTax to help you over the hurdles of tax-form preparation.

If you're dreading the drudgery of taxform preparation (and who isn't?), the
new MacInTax is guaranteed to make
your April a lot brighter. The package
won't pay your tax bill, but it will do
practically everything else. A hybrid of
ChipSoft's TurboTax and SoftView's
previous version of MacInTax (ChipSoft
acquired SoftView in 1991), the program
combines MacInTax's WYSIWYG forms
with TurboTax's interview and consulting features. The result is a program that
expertly guides users through the process
of preparing all but the most complex tax
forms.

No More Guesswork

If you've used previous versions of MacInTax, the first new feature you'll notice is Logical Next Step, a series of helpful pop-up notes that offer suggestions on what to do next. These helpful reminders take the guesswork out of using MacInTax, virtually eliminating the need to read the manual. You can stop and start this feature as needed or turn it off completely if you're an experienced user.

Veteran users can go right ahead and enter tax information directly into the program's forms (more than 90 are provided), statements, and worksheets; check for completeness; print the forms; sign them; and mail them. All types of 1040 forms are supported, from the 1040EZ to the full set.

For those who need a little more guidance, MacInTax offers several levels of help, including Balloon Help for System 7 users. The program's Interview with MacInTax help feature, taken directly from TurboTax, is especially useful. It asks questions much like those you would expect from any knowledgeable tax preparer. Combined with the program's next-step advice, the interview process takes you painlessly through all the forms you need to complete.

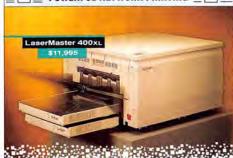
Two other key help functions are Consult with MacInTax, which explains in layman's terms how to fill out individual forms, and actual IRS instructions taken from IRS booklets. Both context-sensitive functions are available to you at any time as you fill out your forms. You can select them as well as the Interview with MacInTax help feature simply by clicking on the selections in a handy new status bar

HIGH RESOLUTION IS JUST



- ▶ 1200 and 1000 dpi plain-paper output
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- 135 premium Type 1 fonts
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Increase resolution, decrease delays, and add flexibility to your company's Macintosh network with a LaserMaster 400xL printer. The 400xL's RISC-based processor dramatically increases print speed, while its powerful engine handles the heavy printing demands of your entire networked work group. And its paper flexibility is great for newsletters, posters, spreadsheets, CAD drawings, and bleeds.





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- Unsurpassed speed from a business printer
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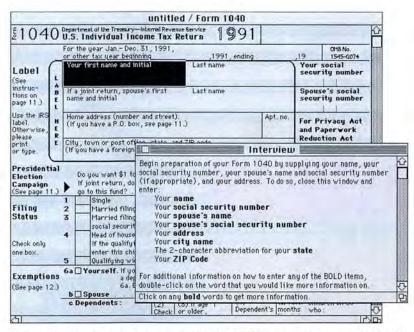
With the LaserMaster 800 and 800/4, LaserMaster has harnessed its patented TurboRes technology to create powerful high-resolution business printers that will make your reports dazzle, your presentations sparkle, and even your most basic correspondence easier to read. Best of all, you can get high-performance 800-dpi Macintosh printing for the same price as a regular 300 or 600-dpi laser printer—or less.

that's located at the top of the screen.

Additional options, such as itemization worksheets for particular line items, are also readily available from the status bar. One especially handy option, Cross Reference, tells you which form, schedule, or worksheet is the source for any given line item.

Finally, a What's New file documents not only what's new in MacInTax but also what's new in the tax laws for 1991.

MacInTax can import data from other applications by using the tab-delimited data format. A conversion option lets you transfer Intuit's Quicken files into MacInTax as well. Once you've begunentering data, you'll discover a wealth of other valuable features. One of the best is an Option/Return-key combination that instantly locates lines in your return that have yet to be filled in as well as those with questionable values, errors, or overrides. That means that you can purposely enter estimated or questionable data (noted by an e or? following the number) as you're going through the return and then quickly



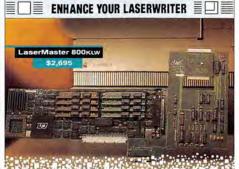
The new MacInTax is a winning marriage of the WYSIWYG forms of the previous version of MacInTax to TurboTax's excellent built-in consulting features.

ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES.



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	MACINTOSH IIX							
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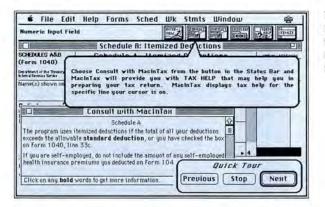
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REVIEWS



The Consult with MacInTax feature explains how to use each form on-screen.

The Bottom Line

By combining MacInTax with Turbo-Tax, ChipSoft has come up with a winner. No matter what your level of tax-preparation expertise, MacInTax is the answer for all but the most complex returns. And if you are lucky enough to be a resident of one of the 15 states supported by Mac-InTax's state-tax series (which includes California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania), you may never again shorten both ends of a pencil filling out a tax return.

- Becky Waring

find the incomplete items and type in the proper values at a later date. The program also indicates incomplete forms by displaying them in outline type in the menus.

When your form is complete, MacIn-Tax's Final Review suggests ways to save tax money based on the information in your return. The program also checks returns for entries that may trigger an IRS audit and alerts you to them. Additionally, the package provides a final checklist, a list of offices where you can obtain IRS publications, and addresses for submitting your return.

You may submit forms printed with MacInTax (using either a dot-matrix or laser printer) directly to the IRS or instead submit files electronically through Nelco, a third-party preparer ([414] 339-1040).

Owners of TurboTax or the previous version of MacInTax can upgrade to the new MacInTax for \$49.95.

Get Info

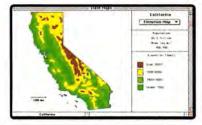
MacInTax

\$\$\$\$1/2

Published by: ChipSoft, Inc., 6330 Nancy Ridge Drive, Suite 103, San Diego, CA 92121; (619)

453-8722. List Price: \$99.95.

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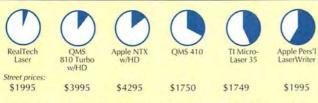
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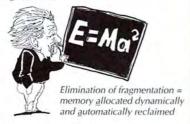


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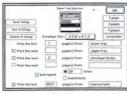
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the next generation of Adobe's page description language, which has become the industry standard for defining pages of integrated text and graphics. It contains a number of performance, function and print quality enhancements that save printing time and improve quality. Post-Script® Level 2 is compatible with all current application software that supports the PostScript® language. In addition, PostScript® Level 2 offers new capabilities, including forms handling, graphic patterns support, and new halftone algorithms.



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2 paper trays included.

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RealTech Laser

HOW REALTECH STACKS UP

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Price	\$1995	\$3999	\$2995	\$1995	\$2899
Pros	Weitek RISC processor	Motorola 68020	Weitek RISC processor	Motorola 68000	Motorola 68000
	9 ppm 8.5x11	8 ppm 8.5x11	6 ppm 8.5x11	9 ppm 8.5x11	8 ppm 8.5x11
	2nd paper tray	-	-	Optional 2nd paper tray	-
	300 dpi	300 dpi	300 dpi	300 dpi	300 dpi
	SCSI port	SCSI port	=	-	SCSI port
	2 mb RAM (+10*)	2 mb (+32*)	3 mb (+6*)	1.5 mb (+4.5*)	1 mb
	PostScript Level 2	PS Level 2	_	PS Level 1	Quick Draw
Cons	Only available through	Very expensive	Expensive	Slow for graphics	Expensive
	HARDWARE THAT FITS	No 2nd paper tray	No 2nd paper tray	No SCSI port	No 2nd paper tray
	1-800-972-3018		No SCSI port;	Limited to 6 mb RAM	
	nal env. feeder \$269		PS clone	Optional paper tray \$199 Optional env. feeder \$269	Not PostScript compatible

HARDWARE FITS 610 S. Frazier Conroe, TX 77301

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RealTech Laser 400

AGAINST THE COMPETITION

QMS 2210 RealTech Laser Hewlett-Packard Illsi Price \$4495 \$9995 \$6995 Pros Weitek RISC processor Motorola 68020 RISC-based formatter 8 ppm 11x17 11 ppm 11x17 16 ppm 8.5x11 22 ppm 8.5x11 17 ppm 8.5 x 11* 2 paper trays Optional 2nd paper tray 2 paper trays 300 or 400 dpi 300 dpi SCSI port SCSI port 4 mb RAM upgradable to 16 4 mb RAM 5 mb RAM upgradable to 17 mb PostScript Level 2 PS Level 1 PS Level 1 Cons Limited supply Very expensive Expensive Limited to 300 dpi Limited to 300 doi 1-800-972-3018 Poor paper handling No 11x17 output; no SCSI port * Optional double-sided printing Slow for complex graphics; 4 mb RAM maximum costs \$695; not practical for

* Optional paper tray \$115

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GRAPHICS & DESIGN

Color It!

If you're looking for a color-image-enhancement program that won't empty your wallet, Color It!'s basic feature set may be just the ticket.

Although Color It!'s maker touts it as a 24-bit painting program, the program's real strength lies in image processing, a characteristic that distinguishes it from other comparably priced painting programs such as DeskPaint and Color MacCheese. Color It!'s chief advantage is that it delivers basic color-image-enhancement features to casual users who don't require all the abilities of a program such as ColorStudio or Photoshop. Color It! lacks the color-correction tools found in high-end packages, and it can be less than intuitive to operate. But at \$119.95, the package is a solid value.

Do-It-Yourself Palettes

Color It!'s floating Tool palette holds a standard complement of painting tools. Because the tools are customizable, you can create an almost unlimited variety, and you have the freedom to position any combination of tools on the palette. Color It! also accepts plug-in tools and filters from programs such as Photoshop and Digital Darkroom. Customized Tool palettes are accessible from a pop-up menu.

You modify tools by using pop-up dialog boxes that contain modifier selections. The buttons that activate the dialog boxes reside on the Tool palette and are

context-sensitive, in that they relate to the selected tool. However, the buttons don't give you any visual feedback about which modifier you've selected. The entire popup dialog box blinks as you make selections. As a result, we often found ourselves returning to the dialog box to verify settings. The separate Brush Options palette holds five more modifiers, and the Paint Controls palette alters painting, pasting, and filtering operations. Color It! is not adept at paint mixing, however.

Because selections remain active and accept modification, Color It! excels at constructing complex selections. Although the tools — lasso, magic wand, and 11 marquee variations — are familiar, it's the modifiers that make the difference. The Grow/Shrink modifier lets you calibrate a selector's sensitivity to variations in pixel color. Toggle buttons let you add pixels to or subtract them from active selections. The Smooth Edges command cleans up a selection's perimeter, and the Feather option lets you paste a selection without hard edges, which is great for creating



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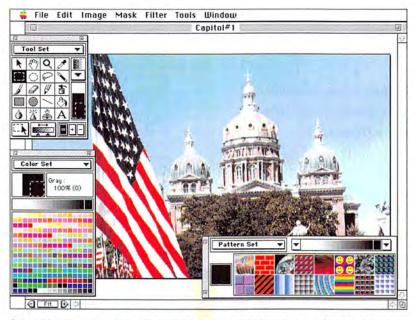
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Color It! is a low-cost painting program that offers a solid complement of basic colorimage-enhancement tools.

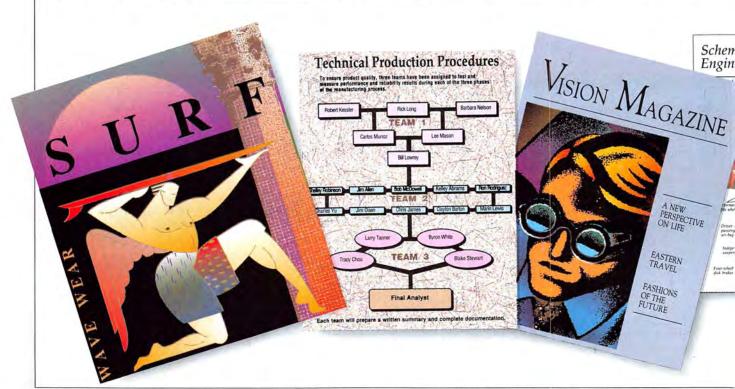
vignette effects. You can even save your selections with TIFF images. When you reopen an image, the selection is active.

You modulate brightness and contrast filters with sliders in a dialog box that displays before-and-after thumbnails for fine-tuning. You can do image enhancement in real time with the thumbnail previews. Dialog boxes for calibrating color brightness and contrast by RGB values and for setting blur and sharpen effects also incorporate thumbnail previews. The Auto Contrast command lets Color It! enhance the image for you, with pleasing results, and you can apply all filtering effects to the program's 8-bit masks, facilitating the subtle blending of images.

Color Handling

Although Color It! does a good job of integrating patterns and colors, its color-handling techniques aren't always intuitive. You can create patterns directly or derive them from image segments, and the program lets you specify gradients in

<u>It's a graphics program.</u> <u>It's a business program.</u> <u>Is not.</u>



either the Color or the Pattern palette. But you can apply them only with the gradient tool. You can't paint a rectangle with a gradient fill, for example, or use the bucket to fill the rectangle with a gradient. Instead, you must draw the rectangle, select it, and then use the gradient tool to fill it. Otherwise, you'll find that the gradient tool applies the gradient over your entire document. When you're choosing colors in the Pattern palette, it's easy to inadvertently pick up whichever color is under the dropper when the Color palette pops up — another annoying characteristic.

Color It!'s text handling, on the other hand, is adequate, and the program offers extensive import and export capabilities. It supports the following formats: PICT, TIFF, PostScript, Paint, Photoshop, and GIF (CompuServe's image format). The program also provides several options for each format, including the ability to write TIFF in Macintosh or IBM formats. There are three built-in file-compression options. Printing options include several

types of dithered output as well as controls for halftone screens. Controlling scanners directly is possible with plug-in drivers.

The manual includes basic information about tools and menus, a tutorial, and a section that details error messages. Unfortunately, given the variety of tools and functions in the program, the manual lacks depth and clarity.

Color It! requires a Mac II or SE/30 with a minimum of 2 megabytes of RAM and System 6.0.5 or later with 32-bit QuickDraw. It's fully compatible with System 7. A color monitor and a 24-bit video board are recommended. For work with large files and multiple documents, Color It! implements its own virtual-memory scheme, which doesn't require System 7.

The Bottom Line

As computer images have become more photo-realistic, the distinctions between painting and image-processing programs have begun to blur. Color It! is a good example of this trend. Its price puts it in a class with other low-cost painting programs, but it distinguishes itself from the field with a solid complement of image-enhancement features. Although it's clearly not the most intuitive painting program in its price range, its capable image-enhancement features make it an excellent value for users who don't require the high-end capabilities of Photoshop or ColorStudio.

— Carlos Martinez



Color It!

\$\$\$1/2

Published by: MicroFrontier, Inc., 3401 101st Street, Suite E, Des Moines, IA 50322; (515) 270-8109.

Version: 1.0. List Price: \$119.95.

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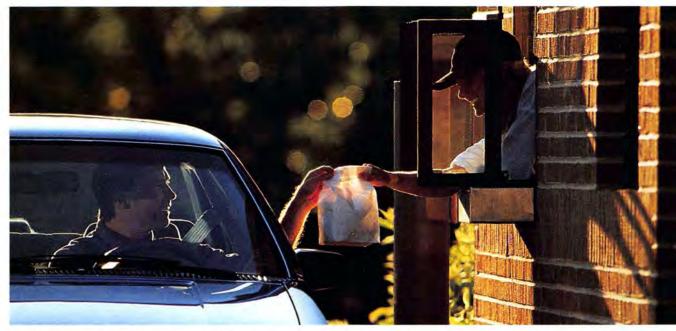
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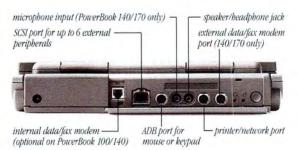






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With today's gargantuan storage devices, graphics professionals can pretty much go hog-wild when it comes to accumulating graphics files. Organizing and finding those files, however, is not as easy as acquiring them, Enter Multi-Ad Search, a cataloging and retrieval system for graphic images.

Search's catalogs contain PICT miniatures of graphic images. These thumbnails are small in file size, so they don't consume vast amounts of disk space, but they maintain enough image quality to provide a recognizable representation of the original image.

A single Search catalog can contain as many as 32,000 images in a variety of formats, including TIFF, paint, EPS, PICT, or RIFF (ImageStudio). The program catalogs black-and-white and color images (up to 32-bit) and stores them in 8-bit format to save disk space. A double click on any thumbnail displays the image in full size in its own window. You can't edit images, but you can cut and paste them. Search keeps track of the size and location of original files and lets you search the database with user-defined keywords.

Because there's no immediate way to categorize or filter the unstructured data that makes up a graphics file, keywords play an important role in the cataloging process. In general, keywords are short descriptions that identify each graphic. Search accepts predefined keywords, such as those created by manufacturers of CD-ROM discs storing TIFF or EPS artwork as well as ones you create.

A unique aspect of Search is its Copy Reference command, a proprietary Clipboard format that saves disk space by copying a pointer to the original artwork without duplicating an entire image. To date, however, the only applications that recognize this format are QuarkXPress 3.0 and Multi-Ad Services' Multi-Ad Creator.

Search lets as many as 128 users access its catalogs simultaneously. It also provides a convenient way to catalog numerous images at once by letting you choose folders and subfolders for processing. Users can opt to print catalogs containing thumbnails, double-sized thumbnails, or the actual images.

Search has some drawbacks. It lacks sorting tools, and its fixed window doesn't let you take advantage of large monitors — you're limited to viewing six thumbnails at once. It also can't catalog proprietary formats, such as Photoshop's.

But these are minor shortcomings. Overall, Multi-Ad Search is ideal for DTP-program users who want to team a moderate-sized hard-disk drive (less than 100 megabytes) with removable media. For example, we easily created a 1.2-megabyte file on our hard disk that took less than an hour and a half to catalog 50 megabytes' worth of graphics files stored on an optical drive. If you deal with many graphic images, Search is an indispensable tool that can save you disk space as well as help you manage and access your files.

Multi-Ad Services, 1720 W. Detweiller Drive, Peoria, IL 61615; (309) 692-1530. Version 1.0. \$199.

- Dave Valiulus



SuperDisk! is one of the latest additions to the growing field of file-compression programs. Alysis, SuperDisk!'s maker, claims that its software is both faster and easier to use than competing packages, but our tests showed the company to be correct on only one count — speed.

SuperDisk! isn't designed to combine multiple files into a single compressed archive file for transmission by modem, as are StuffIt Classic/Deluxe and Compact Pro. SuperDisk!'s primary function is to save disk space by compressing files, which makes DiskDoubler its primary competition.

With SuperDisk! set to maximum compression and DiskDoubler 3.7 set to minimum compression, our tests showed SuperDisk! to be twice as fast as DiskDoubler at compressing the same file. However, the file compressed with SuperDisk! was still roughly twice the size of the file compressed with DiskDoubler and a whopping nine times as large as the same file compressed by Compact Pro.

Outwardly, the most noticeable difference between SuperDisk! and its competitors is SuperDisk!'s compression method—to compress a file, you simply add the extension is to the end of the filename; to decompress a file, you delete the is. You don't have to open an application, and no additional menus are

necessary on the desktop. Moreover, if you add the .s extension to a folder name, anything placed in the folder is automatically compressed.

Compressed SuperDisk! files look like and act in the same way as uncompressed files, and only a few seconds are added to the time it takes to open and close files that are being compressed or decompressed. SuperDisk! is suitable for use with applications as well.

A drawback of using SuperDisk! is the program's confusing control panel. In addition, the method for creating self-extracting files and folders is inconsistent with the program's other operations. Although self-extracting files are only a measly 7K larger than non-self-extracting files, you must use the program's control panel to create self-extracting files and folders. Too bad Alysis didn't model this function after the method for compressing files (simply adding an extension to filenames). This feature may be available by the time this review appears.

We commend Alysis for SuperDisk!'s innovative file-compression method, its speed, and the fact that SuperDisk! is a single control-panel file that doesn't use an application or extra desktop menu.

But SuperDisk!'s control-panel screen should be less confusing, the process of creating self-extracting files should be consistent with compression operations, and the program should be able to squeeze files even tighter for maximum disk-space savings.

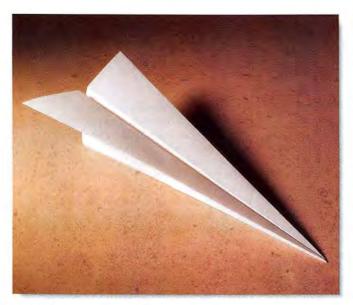
Alysis Software Corp., 1231 31st Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122; (415) 566-2263. Version 1.7. \$89.

- Darryl Lewis



Risky business is the focus of @Risk, a Microsoft Excel add-in that provides Monte Carlo simulation from within Excel 3.0. By adding risk-analysis functions and a new series of menus to the spread-sheet program, @Risk gives you an accurate picture of how even the most uncertain estimates and projections are likely to affect your business.

With @Risk, you can assign uncertain values to multiple worksheet cells. Simulation occurs when @Risk calculates the worksheet many times over, using different input values for those cells. You set up the simulation by using @Risk functions





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in Excel formulas. @Risk provides sophisticated decision analysis thanks to 24 distributions, twice the number provided by its rival Crystal Ball.

After you run simulations, @Risk generates summary Excel worksheets that detail statistical information such as minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation for all output cells. In addition, @Risk produces simple Excel bar charts that show the complete distribution for any given output cell. For macro-specific calculations, an innovative @Risk procedure calls Excel macros for each iteration of the spreadsheet.

But despite @Risk's sophisticated analytical abilities, the program's implementation as an Excel add-in results in a performance and functionality trade-off with Crystal Ball. Although @Risk — unlike Crystal Ball — doesn't require you to run a stand-alone application, its performance is extremely sluggish. In addition, standard operations such as calling up menu items, creating graphs, and loading simulations are pretty slow, even on a Macintosh IIcx.

Incomparison, for roughly half the price of the \$395 @Risk, Crystal Ball provides a far more elegant interface for selecting and defining probability distributions, and it has more-sophisticated charting options. But users must put up with the inconvenience of saving Excel spreadsheets as SYLK files and then importing them into Crystal Ball to run the simulations.

Keeping its strengths and weaknesses in mind, we give @Risk high marks for its sophisticated risk-analysis features. However, the program is seriously hampered by sluggish performance and its price tag is high compared with that of the competition. If price is not an issue and you're willing to trade speed for a tightly integrated environment that has more analytical ability, only then will you find @Risk a better choice than Crystal Ball.

Palisade, 31 Decker Road, Newfield, NY 14867; (607) 277-8000. Version M1.01. \$395.

- Jeffrey A. Steinberg



Azimuth, a cartographic powerhouse, teams sophisticated projection mapping with 2-D-CAD tools. Although many other mapping packages concentrate on data analysis, most fall short when it comes to

Azimuth's specialty — map annotation. Azimuth doesn't provide any data analysis, but it excels at creating good-looking reference maps. Cartographers will especially appreciate Azimuth's ability to map the globe by using any of nine standard cartographic projections.

Like traditional manual cartography, Azimuth uses sophisticated mathematical projections to map the 3-D globe to a 2-D paper surface. Because paper can't accurately display three dimensions without distortion, most of Azimuth's projections optimize one of three map variables — area, shape, or distance accuracy — at the expense of the other two. Azimuth's nine projections fall within three cartographic categories: Equal Area, for plotting area-oriented maps; Conformal, for maps that must preserve the shape of their elements; and Equidistant, for distance-accurate maps.

Besides doing basic projection mapping, Azimuth can create stunning pictorial perspective maps, using views located at certain points in space. The views can be at specific heights and at specific latitudes and longitudes. The resulting effect is similar to taking a picture from a Space Shuttle.

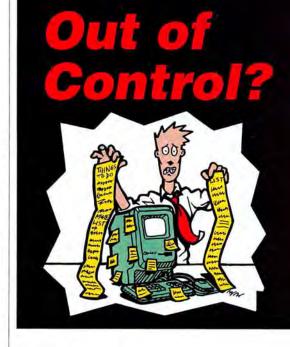
Azimuth uses a layering method that's similar to CAD packages', so users can create a map of a particular region and place a 3-D-style globe that centers on the region in a corner of the map.

Because Azimuth also supplies a sophisticated 2-D drawing component based on Graphsoft's MiniCad+, users can add and rotate text as well as select and modify cartographic objects (use lines to add highways or use polygons to add lakes, for example). You can add extra cartographic information by drawing it in by hand or by using a digitizing tablet.

The package, which includes outlines of the countries of the world and all the states in the U.S., supplies excellent-quality high- and low-resolution-cartography data files. You can export files in black-and-white EPS format for inclusion in illustration and DTP programs. What's missing is cartography below the state level, such as county or city maps. However, this aside, Azimuth's standard projection mapping and excellent 2-D-CAD tools make it a valuable addition to any cartographer's Mac.

Graphsoft, Inc., 8370 Court Avenue, Suite 202, Ellicott City, MD 21043; (301) 461-9488. Version 2.0. \$395.

— Jeffrey A. Steinberg



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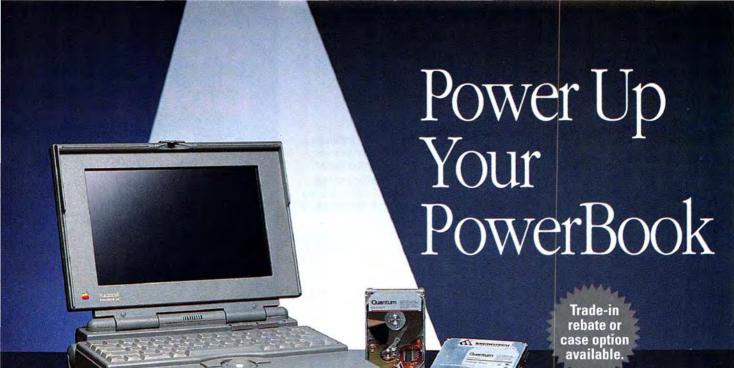
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You've just purchased one of the most sought after notebook computers ever made—Apple's new PowerBook. You bought it for the freedom it affords you, but you're frustrated by its limitations. Although equipped with powerful System 7, the PowerBook's storage and memory configuration barely allows you to do anything beyond booting up.

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QUICK CLICKS



If wrestling with the pipes under the kitchen sink is not your idea of a good time, you might be tempted to avoid a game that casts its players as plumbers. But in the case of Aqua Blooper Piper, you'd be missing a lot of fun. It comes from Casady & Greene, who also produced Crystal Quest. Like Crystal Quest, Aqua Blooper Piper has first-rate animation and sound and is guaranteed to be addictive.

The game's premise is that you have to get a customer's shower working by installing a water pipe between openings at the left and right sides of the screen. A conveyor belt moves pieces of pipe past you, and you install them by clicking and dragging them to any pipe opening. To complete a level successfully, you must create an unbroken pipe between the left and right connections. If you do — and that's a big if — you'll advance to a faster, more challenging level.

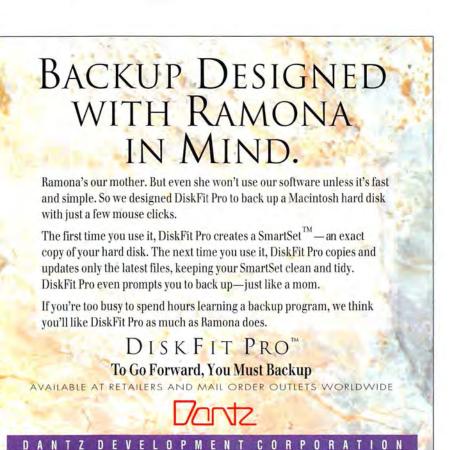
The pipe pieces run the gamut from straight ones equipped with openings at each end to Rube Goldberg-esque pieces with twists, turns, and multiple outlets. You have to work fast, because you're penalized for each piece that drops off the end of the conveyor belt. At higher levels, the game tortures you with frustrating time limits. You're still penalized for any pieces you drop and also for any leaks in the pipes. Positive reinforcement is fairly hard to come by; it consists of bonuses for creating perfect pipes, using lots of pipe pieces, and completing a level quickly.

For your convenience, there's a "boss key," which displays a fake bomb dialog box on-screen. Clicking on Resume takes you back to the game in progress, and clicking on Restart exits the game. This comes in handy for hopelessly addicted players who find themselves laying pipe on the sly while they're at work. Another nice touch is a customizer application, which lets you change sounds or pictures as well as import your own.

Like every good game, Aqua Blooper Piper is easy to learn and difficult to master. And it's a bit like eating salted peanuts — it's almost impossible to quit once you've gotten started.

Casady & Greene, Inc., 22734 Portola Drive, Salinas, CA 93908; (800) 359-4920 or (408) 484-9228. Version 1.1. \$49.95.

— Bob LeVitus



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In less than a week, I became so attached to my TRAVLER that I wouldn't give it up, even for a day. I do a lot of traveling, and it quickly became indispensable to my productivity. I made the agency wait 'til TRAVLERs were rolling off the line, then sent the agency one to shoot for this ad.

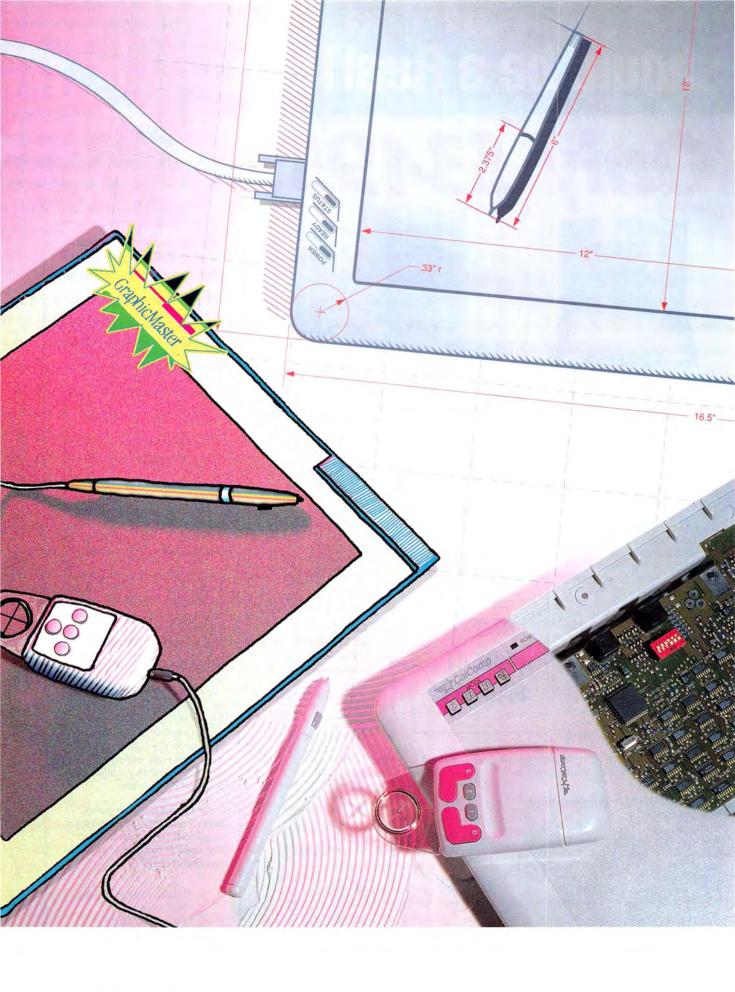
Now I have another problem...I can't get the agency president to return it. After she used it for a day, she was hooked, too! \$\mathcal{I}\$

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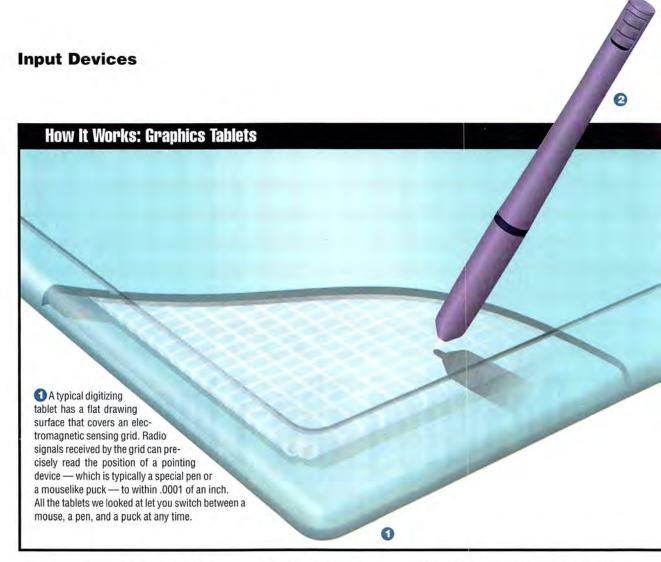
Graphics Tablets: Drawing the Line

Whether you're drawing engineering blueprints or painting in the style of Monet, digitizing tablets are an easy-to-use, affordable way to record your strokes of genius.



ainting on the Mac has been revolutionized in the past year by the introduction of "natural" painting applications such as Fractal Design's Painter and Time Arts' Oasis, which offer a wide variety of brushlike effects. Suddenly, Mac-painted art no longer has to look any different from that created with traditional media such as oils or pastels. This powerful new software, though, mandates a tool other than the Mac's standard mouse cursor-control device: the graphics tablet. Graphics tablets make electronic painting feel natural by letting you use a pen as your pointing tool.

Tablets for the Mac and other systems have been around for years. Although they started out as pricey professional tools for architects, drafters, and engineers, today's small-format models are less expensive, attracting users from all over the graphic-arts world who want to take advantage of the latest breakthroughs in painting software.



For this article, we evaluated six Mac-compatible tablets—the CalComp DrawingBoard II, Kurta IS, Numonics GraphicMaster, Numonics GridMaster, Summagraphics SummaSketch II, and Wacom SD420E. We chose tablets that cost less than \$1,000 and that have a 12-x-12-inch active area. These are practical limits for most uses and most users. Tablets are actually available in a range of sizes from 6 x 9 inches to 48 x 60 inches and beyond, with prices increasing steeply with size.

A Few Pointers

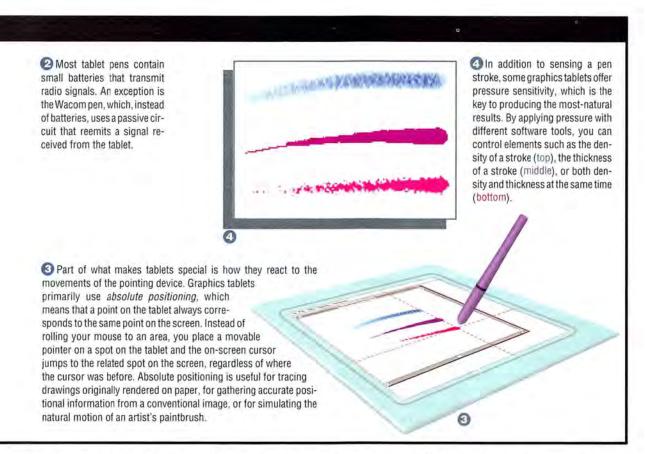
The ability to use a pen, or stylus, is why many artists use tablets in the first place. You hold the pen, whose tip is essentially a mouse button, as you do an ordinary pen or brush. Pressing the pen onto the tablet has the same effect as clicking a mouse button. Most pens also have a sidemounted button where your index finger naturally falls. This button typically serves the same purpose as a second mouse button or, depending on the tablet system, can be assigned a special function such as a double-click or the activation of a macro.

The most significant improvement in tablet technology — pressure sensitivity — takes electronic painting leaps and bounds closer to the real thing. Using an electronic pen for natural strokes is wonderful enough, but when the

painting tool also responds to finger pressure, it's a dream come true. Wacom introduced pressure-sensing pen-and-tablet systems to the Mac market, and artists and photo editors have adopted them in droves. By the time you read this, both CalComp and Kurta will be shipping their own pressure-sensitive tablets. CalComp and Wacom have opted to offer pressure sensitivity only in serial-port tablets; Kurta's pressure-sensitive tablet will come in serial and ADB versions.

Many tablets can also be used with a pointing device called a *puck*. Pucks generally look and handle like a mouse, but most are also equipped with four or more buttons, each of which can be assigned special time-saving functions. Pucks have a clear plastic area at the front with a cross hair whose exact location is sensed by the tablet. The cross hair makes it possible to place the puck very precisely over the points of a tablet-mounted graphic. Although any tablet's pen and puck should sense a given point identically, with most tablets we tested, a given point sensed by the pen was sensed by the puck as being anywhere from one pixel to ¹/₄ of an inch away.

All the tablets we looked at can resolve 200 to 1,000 distinct points in an inch. The issue of resolution will concern you only if you need superaccurate measuring, for such uses as engineering or image analysis, and then only



if you're using a puck. If you intend to use the pen and mainly paint or photo-edit, there's no point in paying for the ability to hand-trace bacteria.

For all practical purposes, the resolution of most tablets far exceeds human capability, especially if you use them with pens, which have relatively blunt tips. Moreover, if you hold the pen tip steady at a given point on the tablet and then tilt the pen, the tablet will erroneously sense that the pen tip has changed position. With the tablets we tested, tilting the pen through a 90-degree arc caused a tilt shift of ¹/₃₂ to ¹/₁₆ of an inch, with the Kurta tablet straying as much as ³/₈ of an inch. If you naturally hold a pen at a constant angle, tilt shift isn't a problem; if your drawing motion is looser, however, excessive tilt shift might noticeably distort the shape of your strokes.

Making Connections

A tablet communicates with a Mac in one of two ways: through a serial port (either the modem or the printer port) or through an ADB port (the keyboard/mouse port). Connecting a tablet to the ADB port is easy: You just plug it in to an ADB port at the back of the Mac or at the side of the keyboard. Machines with two ADB ports, such as the SE and the Mac II line, can easily accommodate both an ADB tablet and a mouse. Macs with a single ADB port, such as

the Classic and the LC, require you to disconnect the mouse to plug in the tablet — unless the tablet itself provides an additional ADB port, as do the CalComp, Kurta, and Summagraphics tablets.

Tablets that connect to a serial port offer several advantages over their ADB cousins: They have the potential for greater speed; they can work on any Mac from a 512Ke on up; and with the right cables and software, all the serial tablets we looked at can be used with a PC-compatible machine. The price for this flexibility is some extra time and effort in configuring the tablet to work with your serial port.

The majority of ADB tablets, such as the CalComp DrawingBoard II and the Numonics GraphicMaster, get their power from the ADB port, so one cable conveniently does it all. Other tablets need to plug in to standard 120- or 240-volt outlets.

CalComp DrawingBoard II

This tablet, among the least obtrusive in the class considered here, is a lightweight ADB unit with a plastic-overlay top. Its nicely rounded edges don't dig into your arm during long sessions, and its surface has a slight tilt, which you can increase with two flip-out legs. Button areas across the top let you pictorially choose the tablet's mode — absolute or relative — and several other options. You can assign

Input Devices

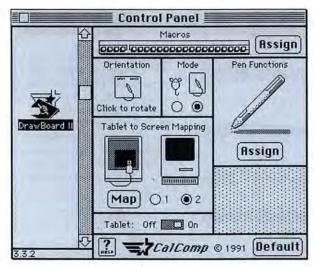


Figure 1: The CalComp DrawingBoard II's software is among the best. It offers excellent visual clues and sensible options — for instance, the picture of the pointing device changes as you place a different one on the tablet.

keyboard command equivalents to 18 numbered buttons.

The DrawingBoard II's customization control-panel software is superb. It's smart enough to recognize whether you're using a pen, a 4-button puck, or a 16-button puck, and when you place a different pointing device on the tablet, you see a picture of it on-screen along with the appropriate customization options.

The cordless pen and puck, powered by a special battery available from CalComp, are thoughtfully designed. Even though it's battery-powered, the pen feels like a pen, and the bottom of the puck is smooth plastic and glides over any surface. The accuracy of both the pen and the puck is excellent, and unique among the six tablets, we found that items we drew with the pen and the puck registered precisely.

The DrawingBoard II is part of CalComp's 3300 series. A serial version of this tablet that supports a pressure-sensitive pen should be available by the time you read this. The pressure-sensing pen also senses tilt and passes that information to applications. Tilt data can be used for special effects or to help correct cursor-positioning errors. A slide-switch pen acts as a pressure transmitter, based on how much you slide it, not how hard you press.

Kurta IS Series

Kurta, a longtime Mac-tablet maker, offers its IS-series tablet in ADB and serial versions—the IS/ADB and the IS/ONE, respectively. The two types look and feel physically identical except for their electrical and data connections and the labeling of tablet controls, and they each accept cordless and corded pens and pucks. The active area is covered with a thick transparent plastic layer under which you can slip thin items to be traced or a template with button areas that activate macros. The tablets accept commercially available

plastic-overlay templates with predefined, preprogrammed button areas customized for specific applications. Across the top of the IS tablets are 13 color-coded buttons that can trigger macros. Several dedicated buttons let you exercise frequent options, such as toggling from absolute to relative mode or changing the working area's size and position.

The corded pen is normal-sized, and its metal tip glides well over any surface and with minimal wear. Its side-mounted button can act as a second mouse button or as a handy double-click button. The four-button puck has a small, cramped cross-hair area. The Kurta cordless devices are powered by five button-type batteries, so the cordless pen has to be hefty, about the size of a thick felt-tip marker. The pen's grip area has a comfortable triangular cross section, but those five batteries make the pen noticeably top-heavy. We found that the corded and the cordless pens showed good accuracy and consistency while being held upright, but tilting the pens produced a shift in the perceived pen location of as much as 3/8 of an inch.

Kurta's entry in the pressure-sensitive arena is the XGT series, which should be shipping by the time you read this. The series has a 12-x-12-inch unit that comes in ADB and serial versions. Like the other Kurta offerings, the tablet has a dedicated button area as well as the ability to run macros when you click on tablet-area buttons. The software includes an extension that enables the information from the Kurta XGT to mimic the data stream from a Wacom tablet, making it compatible with Wacom-aware applications.

The cordless pointers available for the XGT include a pressure-sensitive pen, a standard pen, and a puck — all new designs. The pens are lighter and smaller than the previous cordless model and take three tiny button batteries instead of five larger ones. The cordless four-button puck has a rounded-slope design that makes it easy to hold. The XGT tablet will cost \$545. Also available will be an interface kit (\$50), a cordless pressure pen (\$300), a cordless four-button puck (\$100), and a corded standard pen (\$100).

Numonics GraphicMaster

This exceptionally light ADB tablet has a slight tilt that you can increase by installing two legs, which are normally stored underneath. It's pleasingly portable and simple to set up. The pen has a side-mounted button that acts as a double-click button, a minor but significant feature that overcomes the tendency of most pens to shift their pointer position as you double-click with the tip. The system is responsive even to fast strokes. The puck has a velveteen bottom and handles comfortably. Both pointing devices performed well in our accuracy tests.

The no-frills software lets you set the active area of the tablet either numerically or graphically. There are no macro-activation options or buttons on the tablet itself. Although this tablet system is feature-lean, the GraphicMaster tablet is the lightest of the rigid tablets and it's as close to plugand-play as tablets get.

Numonics GridMaster

Unlike the other tablets, the GridMaster is flexible — really flexible. It's a mere \(^1/3\)2 of an inch thick, and the only solid part is a small rectangular box on the upper right corner, where all the connections are made. Its thin profile allows you to tape it to your work surface and place workaday items or a layer of protective paper on top of it, completely hiding the unit, whether it's in use or not. If you're on the move, this tablet can easily move with you.

The GridMaster uses the same pointing devices as the GraphicMaster does, and its operational accuracy is generally equal to that of its more conventional cousin. The pen is slightly less accurate; you could probably improve accuracy by taping the tablet as flat as possible to the desktop. We thought the tablet felt odd at first, but it responded very well to every stroke and was a pleasure to use.

Summagraphics SummaSketch II

If you like cables, this is the tablet for you. It comes with a power supply that plugs in to a wall outlet and then in to a special cable that plugs in to the tablet. That cable plugs in to an ADB adapter box with twin ADB ports, one of which connects to your Mac. The pen and puck are both corded and add to your developing network.

Electronically, this tablet is top-notch, but two significant physical aspects make it hard to use: It has the coarsest surface of the bunch, and the pen requires substantial tip pressure to communicate a click. This combination makes for a grating experience, in both the aural and the tactile sense. In Photoshop the pen required substantial pressure to communicate a continuous stroke; if the pressure eased, the tablet mistakenly thought a stroke was finished. Luckily, the pen has a side-mounted button that can act as the click button, although it's still not compensation enough for the heavy-handed drag-and-click. The four-button puck is rectangular, narrow, and unergonomic.

The software for customizing the SummaSketch II options is straightforward but purely numerical. You can't show the software what you want by gesturing over the tablet; instead, you must set the location, size, and aspect ratio of the active area with four sliders. There is no automatic maintenance of horizontal and vertical proportions. Fortunately, the documentation is well-illustrated and clearly written.

Wacom SD420E

Wacom has been a provider of pressure-sensitive-tablet systems for a long time. The star of its show is the natural-feeling, cordless, batteryless pressure-sensing pen, which is simply constructed and maintenance-free. The slight disadvantage is that the maximum thickness of objects you can trace is about 3/8 of an inch compared with about 1/2 an inch for most other tablets. You can customize the system's response to pressure by setting the threshold value (from 3 to 63) beyond which the pressure on the stylus causes a

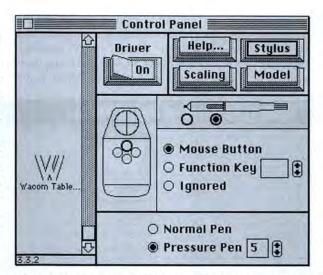


Figure 2: Wacom's pressure-sensing pen offers new capabilities and related options. The company's customization software lets you specify the minimum pressure that the tablet interprets as a click. You can also assign special functions to each of the four puck buttons.

reaction. Even without software for handling pressure sensitivity, this system lets you make a mouse-click with a feather touch. The cordless, batteryless four-button puck doesn't sense pressure. On the plus side, it has an exceptionally sharp cross-hair area; on the minus side, this puck drags more than those of the other tablets do. You can assign function-key equivalents to its four buttons.

Wacom supplies software plug-in tools for SuperPaint and UltraPaint and includes a stand-alone application called PressurePaint. Several applications, such as FreeHand, ColorStudio, Oasis, Painter, Photoshop, and Studio/32, offer pressure-sensitive tools that work with the Wacom driver.

The Bottom Line

By now you may be thinking that a digitizing tablet is a must-have peripheral. But if you don't frequently work with painting or photo-editing applications, your tablet may end up serving primarily as a large and expensive mouse pad. Once you adopt a tablet, it can demand a sizable chunk of your work space. The footprint of a typical 12-x-12-inch tablet is closer to 16 x 16 inches — roughly equivalent to that of a Mac IIfx CPU. If you frequently need to trace small-format art, a tablet is not the way to go; instead, you should scan your work and then auto-trace it with a dedicated tracing application.

If you decide that you do need a tablet, consider your main applications and whether you'll be using a pen or a puck the most. Generally, a puck is best for technical applications such as drawing, analyzing, and measuring and a pen excels wherever paintings or photos are involved. For pure pointing pleasure and hassle-free performance,

Input Devices

our top picks are the CalComp DrawingBoard II and the Wacom SD420E. They have excellent pens and pucks, and we were impressed with the Wacom tablet's pressure sensitivity — a feature that both CalComp and Kurta were planning to offer at press time. A close runner-up is the

lightweight Numonics GraphicMaster, which is extremely easy to set up and use. \square

Graphics guru Salvatore Parascandolo suggests that if painting with a mouse gives you headaches, use one or two tablets and call him in the morning.

	CalComp DrawingBoard II	Kurta IS \$15%	Numonics GraphicMaster
List price*	with corded pen/puck, \$495; with cordless pen/puck, \$645	IS/ADB, \$595; IS/ONE, \$645	\$595
Pros	Excellent software. Natural-feeling pen. Well-designed puck.	Extensive setup options. Excellent macro power. Macro templates available. Works with PCs and Macs (serial version only).	Light and portable. Easy setup.
Cons		Heavy cordless pen. High pen-tilt position error. Complex documentation.	No cordless pointing devices available.
Company	CalComp, Inc. 14555 N. 82nd St. Scottsdale, AZ 85260 (602) 948-6540	Kurta Corp. P.O. Box 60250 Phoenix, AZ 85082 (602) 276-5533	Numonics Corp. 101 Commerce Dr. Montgomeryville, PA 18936 (215) 362-2766
Create on the	Numonics GridMaster	Summagraphics SummaSketch II	Wacom SD420E
List price*	with pen, \$449; with puck, \$469	\$699	\$995
Pros	Thin, light, and portable. Easy to set up. Can be taped to desk. Can be used with any Mac.	Works with PCs and Macs.	Works with PCs and Macs. Excellent software. No batteries. Can be used with any Mac.
Cons	Subject to kinks and puncture damage. No cordless pointing devices available.	Rough surface. Pen needs ' a heavy hand. No cordless pointing devices available. Lots of cables.	Maximum traceable thickness of objects is less than with other tablets.
Company	Numonics Corp. 101 Commerce Dr. Montgomeryville, PA 18936 (215) 362-2766	Summagraphics Corp. 60 Silvermine Rd Seymour, CT 06483 (203) 881-5400	Wacom Technology Corp. 501 S.E. Columbia Shores Blvd., Ste. 300 Vancouver, WA 98661 (201) 265-4226

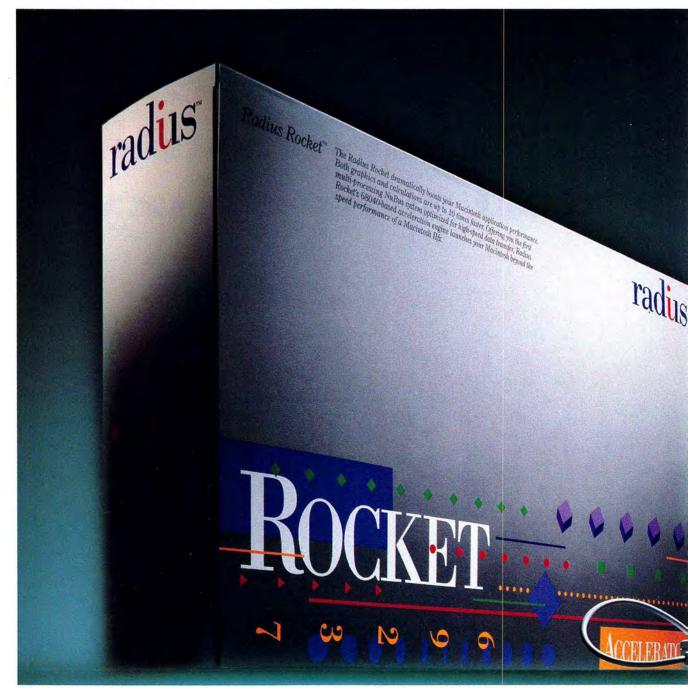
^{*}The price is for the 12-x-12-inch size; all tablets are available in other sizes.

If you said you could buy an 040 upgrade for under \$1500, people would call you crazy.

Padde not inc

You would not be considered overly cautious, money conscious or

extremely skeptical not to consider buying a Radius Rocket 25i. Just basically insane. Because our ingenious new 040 accelerator



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board will instantly turn your Mac II* into one bad apple.



The Rocket easily plugs into your NuBus slot and protects your current investment by utilizing your Mac, not replacing it. Our unique architecture supports up to 128 MB of RAM and enables your existing motherboard to handle I/O commands while the Rocket's 040 races up to 6 times faster than your Mac II.

Recent tests conducted by MacWEEK showed the Rocket beating the pants off other 040 based alternatives in graphics performance. Speed of response. Requests for processing time. And integer-math tests (see performance chart below).

And when you consider the Rocket's compatibility features like the ability to simulate the 030's cache mode or the ability to run either System 6 or System 7, you have to really wonder why it's practical to choose any alternative to the Rocket 25i.

If you're not sure your system is ready for the power and the speed of a Rocket just give us a call and we'll send you a free Rocket Lift-Off disk to slip into your Mac. The disk will detail compatibility with

your computer's system software, motherboard. peripherals and network.

So, if you're interested in an incredibly easy up-



So, what are you waiting for?

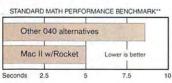
grade with the \$1499 Rocket 25i. Or the \$1999 Rocket with the integrated math coprocessor, simply call us at 1-800-227-2795. Or call 1-800-966-7360 and we'll fax you everything you need to know about either of these accelerator

boards.

If you agree this is a fantastic offer, we'd love to

reserve you a brand new Rocket.

If not, we'd love to reserve you a suite at Happy Acres.







Sizable Storage: 200-Megabyte Hard Drives

Is data inflation filling your hard disk?

MacUser Labs looks under the hood of 41 jumbo hard drives

and picks 6 that make the grade.

BY WINN L. ROSCH AND THE MACUSER LABS STAFF

very generation of software adds another twist to the data-inflation spiral. Take Photoshop, for example. One of its full-page, full-color images can consume 20 megabytes, but when you consider the working and undo copies of each image, at another 20 megabytes apiece, you can see why your Mac's internal 40-megabyte drive offers no more of a hedge against inflation than does an investment in rubles. Instead, today's smart money is on a storage format that offers an optimal compromise between future storage needs and your budget: 200-megabyte drives. Although even-larger hard drives can offer a lower per-megabyte cost, the prices of 200-megabyte hard drives (they start at \$659) enable the cost-conscious to fight data inflation without blowing their budgets.

200-Megabyte Hard Drives

Not All Mechanisms Are Alike

For this review of 200-megabyte drives, we examined 41 drives from 29 vendors (many vendors offer more than one version of their drive, with differing mechanisms). Currently, all the drives in this category are based on one of six mechanisms: the Conner CP-3200F, Fujitsu M2614SA, Hewlett-Packard C2233, Maxtor LXT-213SY, Plus Impulse 210S, or Quantum ProDrive 210S — the Plus mechanism is actually the ProDrive 210S, relabeled by Plus Development, a former subsidiary of Quantum.

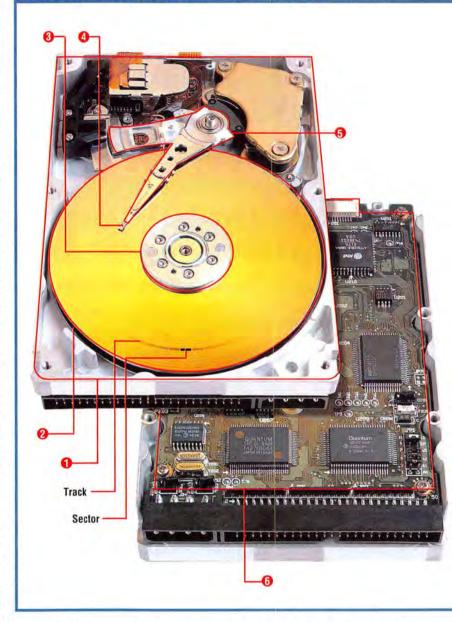
Choosing a drive is more complicated than picking the one with the fastest mechanism or the lowest price. For one thing, the slowest mechanism isn't much less expensive than the fastest: The Saturae Proline, which is based on the Hewlett-Packard mechanism, is almost twice as fast as the Relax Vista 180, which is based on the Fujitsu mechanism, yet it costs only \$140 more. And depending on which Mac you connect the drive to, opting for one with the fastest mechanism might be a waste of money. Slower Macs, such as the 68000-based Classic, can't take full advantage of the fastest disk-access speeds, because of CPU clock-speed and SCSI-interface bottlenecks; for these less powerful Macs, a slower and less expensive drive can be perfectly adequate.

In addition to providing the mechanism inside the case, vendors offer different levels of support, construction quality, warranty length, and service. Depending on your resources, you may choose your new drive based on these considerations. If you don't have an in-house technical-support department that can install, troubleshoot, and maintain your drive, for example, you may want to buy from a local computer dealer or vendor that provides some hand-holding or a long-term warranty.

The Hard-Drive Score Card

Whether you're talking dollars or data, inflation is a real-world problem, so we took a real-world approach to our testing. Starting with the shipping

How It Works: Storing, Finding, and Moving Your Data



box at our doorstep, we evaluated everything from the packaging to the drive's construction and performance. Each drive earned scores in three broad categories — service and packaging, performance, and design and construction — and each drive's score in these categories was plotted along with its price, in dollars per megabyte (see Figures 1, 2, and 3, respectively). The price per megabyte ranges from

that of the MacTown DataStor 210 MB, at \$3.34 per megabyte, to that of the Liberty 70210Q, at \$7.09 per megabyte.

Choose your drive from whichever of these categories is most important to you. The closer to the top of the chart, the less expensive the drive, and the farther right, the higher score that drive received in that category, so drives closest to the upper right corner of

The head-disk assembly 1 contains the platters, or disks 2 that store the data in concentric circles, known as tracks. The spindle motor 3 rotates the platters at a precise speed while read/write heads 4 read data from and write data to the platters. An actuator 5 moves the heads from track to track. The SCSI controller 6 coordinates all these mechanical parts.

Throughput — how much data actually gets written or read in a given period of time — is determined by a combination of the spindle-motor speed, the number of sectors per track, and the sector size. For example, Quantum's new ProDrive 240S (illustrated here) combines a 4,306-revolution-per-minute rotational speed, a maximum of 87 sectors on the outside tracks, and a 512-byte sector size to produce a sustained data-transfer rate of about 3 megabytes per second; actual performance is about 10 percent faster than that of the ProDrive 210S, used by many of the drives evaluated for this report.

Other factors involving the simple mechanics of finding the data on the platter also affect hard-drive speed. The ProDrive 240S has four read/write heads - one for each side of its two platters. The time it takes to switch between heads - the headswitch time — is about 2 milliseconds. Add to this some amount of latency - the time it takes for the correct sector to come under the head - and seek time - the time it takes the actuator to position the heads over the right track - and you have the access time. Because the Mac reads and writes in small chunks and has to prepare these chunks of data before sending them to the disk or process them after they've been read, each read or write transaction has a small amount of processing time tagged on to the access time.

- Jeff Pittelkau

each chart offer the best performance per price in that category. If you're a relative novice when it comes to hardware — you simply want the most-comprehensible instructions — or if you are concerned about wasteful packaging, choose a drive from among the top of the packaging-and-service scores. If you don't care about packaging and simply want the fastest drive available, look at the performance

chart. Or if you want a drive that's designed for ease of use and is built to last, pick from among those drives with higher design-and-construction scores.

Ecopackaging Is Rare

We opened each box, first evaluating the packing material: Was it dangerously spartan, was it ecologically conservative yet utilitarian, or were half the trees in the Pacific Northwest used to protect the drive? No drive suffered shipping damage because of skimpy packaging; on the other hand, some packaging was so wasteful that the vendors should have filed environmental-impact statements. The Microtech Nova N200, the Relax Vista 180 and 210, and the Tulin Hive Jr 210 MB, for example, were wallowing in enough polluting pink-plastic popcorn to supply a double feature of the Toxic Avenger. The Relax drives' cables and terminators were also wrapped in plastic bags, which had in turn been stuffed into individual boxes inside the shipping carton. On the other hand, the packaging of the APS Maxtor 213 ZFP, the APS Quantum 210 Portable, and the APS Quantum 210 ZFP was both functional and environmentally conservative.

After evaluating the packaging materials, we scrutinized the packing slip and the contents of the box. Most packages come with everything you need to set up the drive and get it running — a power cable, a SCSI cable, a SCSI terminator, and formatting software — but there are a few exceptions. The CD Technology HD Porta-Drive 200 didn't come with a SCSI cable; when prodded, the company promised to start including SCSI cables in the future. The Liberty 70210O arrived with a photocopy of the formatting-software manual but no formatting software. And the Mac-Products Magic 210 arrived without bolts in the case - oops. The last two problems were cleared up after a few quick phone calls, but we'd like vendors to take more care when shipping their merchandise.

Contented with the Contents

With everything at hand, we next took a closer look at the quality of the contents, giving points for service, documentation, and formatting and setup software. We judged service based on factors such as phone support (toll-free hot line preferred), availability of local dealers or service centers, data-recovery services, guaranteed turnaround time for repairs, warranty, and money-back guarantee. Just as you would when purchasing a drive, we evaluated service and warranty solely on the information supplied in the vendor's box.

Length of warranty is a leading indicator of quality: How much faith does the manufacturer have in its drive mechanism? Fujitsu and Hewlett-Packard both back their mechanisms with five-year warranties. (The Relax Vista 180 uses a Fujitsu mechanism; the Core Optima 200, Dynatek HDA 234, and Saturae Proline use the Hewlett-Packard mechanism.) All the other mechanisms have a two-year warranty.

In addition to the warranty supplied by the mechanism's manufacturer, a warranty for the rest of the package the power supply and other components - is supplied by the drive vendor. Core and Microtech both offer five-year warranties, and Relax offers a three-year warranty for the Vista 180. CD Technology, CMS, Cutting Edge, HDI, Liberty, MacTown, MicroNet, Optima, PLI, and Procom all offer one-year warranties. All the other vendors offer two-year warranties, with the exception of Tulin, which includes no warranty information with its drive. Long warranties are a great thing, but they don't come without cost - generally, the longer the warranty, the more expensive the drive. See Table 1 for details of each vendor's warranty.

Most drives come with manuals for both hardware and software. Hardware manuals address such matters as terminating the SCSI chain and setting the SCSI ID; software manuals tell you how to use the formatting

200-Megabyte Hard Drives

software. Of the two, we found that the software manuals were generally more detailed. One example of an outstanding handbook is FWB's manual for Hard Disk ToolKit, the formattingand hard-drive-utility software bundled with the FWB PocketHammer 200. The accompanying 300-page manual does an excellent job of covering all aspects of SCSI technology and harddrive installation as well as providing detailed instructions for each of Hard Disk ToolKit's modules. Relax Technology's documentation follows closely behind FWB's. Its manual is well illustrated and offers thorough coverage of setup issues, from hardware installation to SCSI termination and other technical matters.

In contrast to Relax's documentation, Tulin's manual for the Tulin Hive Jr 210 MB was a skimpy five-page affair, completely devoid of illustration. The hardware manual for HDI's PowerDrives was so poorly bound that many of its pages were cut off and hence unreadable, and HDI's software manual consisted solely of a ReadMe file.

Fine Formatting

The final step before we could come up with a packaging-and-service score was to evaluate the software. Although all the drives are already *formatted* (prepared so that the drive surface can store data) as shipped, you may want to use the formatting software to finetune the drive's settings to match its performance to that of your Mac. Many of the drives also ship with shareware, such as fonts, utilities, games, and HyperCard stacks. If you plan to reformat your drive, be sure to back up those shareware programs you want to keep.

Overall, we found that all the formatters worked adequately. The only appreciable difference among them was that the formatters included with the Deltaic Server 200Q and the Relax Vista 180 and 210 did not allow *partitioning*, which creates logical boundaries on your hard disk so that you can create separate volumes (which look

Cache Flow

You hear a lot about cache these days—but not the kind that pays your bills. A hard-drive cache is a group of chips that temporarily stores data to be written to, or just read from, the drive. Getting data from the cache is faster than getting it from the disk, because the data is stored in silicon RAM and no mechanical devices are required to search for it.

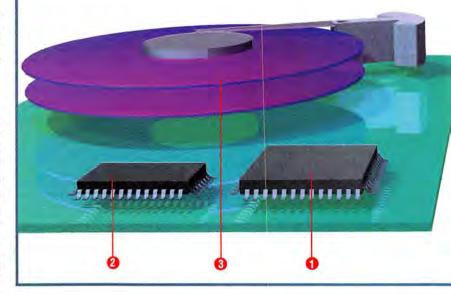
The amount of space devoted to a cache is usually small — 64K is standard — although larger cache sizes are becoming more common. A cache is typically built in to a hard-disk drive's controller 1, the chip set that controls the disk mechanism. A hard-drive controller can have a read cache, a write cache, or both.

The read cache is the more common of the two. Data read from the drive is stored, en route to the Mac, in the controller's cache 2. If the data is still in the cache the next time the Mac requests it, the data will be

read from the cache — this read is called a cache hit —instead of from the disk 3. thus improving overall response. When space is needed for new data, the least recently used data is overwritten.

A read cache also *prefetches* data; rather than getting just the blocks requested, it also stores the next few blocks of data in anticipation of future requests. One big advantage of this scheme is that subsequent data requests from the Mac may well be for the data that is already stored in the cache; that data will be accessed many times faster than if the hard-drive mechanism is required to access it from the disk.

A write cache is similar to a read cache, except that it temporarily stores data that is to be written to the disk. As soon as the data is in the cache, the drive tells the Mac that it has already written the data. The Mac can then prepare the next chunk of data to be written while the drive actually writes the



like separate hard drives on your desktop) from a single disk. Partitioning your disk into more than one volume enables you to do such things as share one volume on your network while keeping the rest of your hard disk under wraps. If you want to divvy up your 200 megabytes into more than one volume, you'll need one of the formatters that lets you do so.

Of all the software we examined,

FWB's Hard Disk ToolKit was the most powerful. Hard Disk ToolKit's World Control module lets users alter a drive's *mode-page* settings — controls that can improve performance, capacity, and data security. Don't let Hard Disk ToolKit fall into unskilled hands, though. Allowing users to manipulate many of the drive's core functions opens the door to a host of problems, possibly including such serious

cached data to the disk. This overlapping of tasks dramatically increases write speeds.

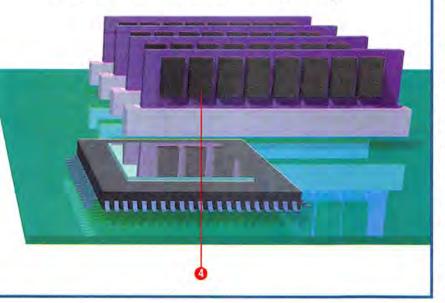
Some people argue that a write cache exposes users to a greater danger of data loss in the event that the drive suffers a power failure while data is in the write cache. In our tests of the Mac's power supply (see "When Lightning Strikes: Power Protection," February '92, page 190), we found that it can survive power outages lasting as long as 250 milliseconds without even flinching — a write cache usually stores data for only 2 milliseconds at a time.

The Mac's operating system has always allowed you to devote some of your Mac's RAM to the task of disk caching. Under System 6, you could turn the cache on or off and adjust its size — in kilobytes — through the General control panel. Under System 7, the cache, which has been renamed the Disk Cache, is in the Memory control panel. The Disk Cache is similar to a hard-disk

drive's read cache, except that it does not perform any prefetching.

When accessing data, the Mac first searches the built-in Disk Cache; then the drive checks its read cache; and, finally, the drive checks the disk itself. You can no longer turn the Disk Cache off, but you can adjust its size; Apple recommends allocating 32K of cache for every megabyte of RAM. So, for example, an 8-megabyte Mac should have a 256K cache. Too large a cache can actually slow you down - the larger the cache, the more data the Mac must search through before finding what it's looking for. Because some applications take better advantage of the Disk Cache than others do, we recommend that you experiment with different values to see which size is optimal for your system. Remember to restart your Mac after fiddling with the cache size.

- Stephan Somogyi



damage to your drive that it has to be reformatted or even returned to the factory for repair.

Real-World Performance

We chose real-world applications to gauge certain aspects of a drive's performance. To test seek and access capabilities, we sorted a 2,000-record 4th Dimension database; to evaluate throughput, we copied a 13-megabyte

file by using DiskTop and duplicated another 13-megabyte file by using the Finder. Finally, to exercise all aspects of drive operation, we opened a 6-megabyte Photoshop file, rotated the image, and then saved it to disk. Because of the way it manages disk space for virtual memory, Photoshop gives hard drives a real workout. We scored the drive's performance based on these real-world tests and again plotted these

results along with the cost of each drive (see Figure 2). The Core Optima 200 and the Saturae Proline, both based on the Hewlett-Packard mechanism, were the fastest drives; the Relax Vista 180, which is based on a Fujitsu mechanism, was the slowest.

According to the mechanism manufacturers' specifications of average seek times - often considered a good means of determining drive speed the drives that use the Hewlett-Packard C2233 mechanism, with an average seek time of 12.6 milliseconds, should be the fastest, followed by those that use the Maxtor LXT-213SY, Plus Impulse 210S, and Quantum ProDrive 210S mechanisms, at 15 milliseconds: those using the Conner CP-3200F, at 16 milliseconds; and, finally, those with the Fujitsu M2614SA, at 25 milliseconds. We found that other factors also affected overall speed, though, and that seek time — although an important indicator - doesn't tell the whole story.

Using caches, chips on the mechanism's controller that temporarily store data read from or to be written to the disk (see the "Cache Flow" sidebar), is one way to improve a drive's performance. To a degree, the larger the capacity of the cache, the greater the chance that it can conduct any given data transaction and thus eliminate access time. If a cache is too large, however, more time will be required for searching the cache to find data than would be necessary for accessing the same data on the disk. Most new mechanisms have caches of around 256K. The Hewlett-Packard C2233, the Quantum ProDrive 210S, and the Conner CP-3200F have 64K caches, the Maxtor LXT-213SY has a 32K cache, and the Fujitsu M2614SA offers a 24K cache. Our results affirm the importance of caches to some degree, but many drives overlap in terms of performance, because some vendors' driver software is more efficient than others'.

Also, a disk may have bad blocks, which have no effect on the drive's normal operation except that the drive

200-Megabyte Hard Drives

On the Horizon

You don't need a crystal ball to predict that future hard drives will store more data — and find that data faster — than do drives available today. Although drive capacities are increasing, drive sizes are shrinking from the classic 5.25-inch and 3.5-inch sizes to 2.5 inches — and smaller.

In jamming more data onto a smallersized platter, manufacturers are faced with the challenge of optimizing the head-todisk interface. The closer the heads are to the disk, the more data can be stored on the platter. And therein lies the rub: Platter surfaces must be smooth enough to allow the heads to get as close as possible.

Aluminum is the most common disk substrate, the material from which the platters are made. At a microscopic level, however, aluminum platters are about as smooth as the Rockies. But by using smooth glass — either glasslike ceramic material or real silicon-based glass — as a substrate instead of aluminum, manufacturers can let the read/write heads float closer to the disk platters and achieve even greater storage densities. Areal Technology now offers glass platters in its drives, and other vendors will undoubtedly follow suit.

To achieve even greater densities, however, the read/write heads will have to come into direct contact with the disk's surface. Unfortunately, such direct contact either grinds tracks into the disk or wears out the heads. However, friction-reducing liquid on the disk surface reduces wear while allowing the heads to approach actual contact; in effect, the heads no longer fly around the platter but swim. Manufacturers such as Seagate Technology are experimenting with this innovation and expect to produce commercial direct-contact disks in the next couple of years.

Increased access speed is another elusive goal in disk design. Manufacturers strive to trim the average seek times of their drives but are constrained by the laws of inertia. Over the years, drive makers have trimmed the size and mass of their actuators, and at this point, the law of diminishing returns has come into play — further reductions promise only modest improvements in speed.

Conner Peripherals, however, is developing a unique hard drive that breaks through the inertia limits and can dramatically reduce the average access time. To speed up access, Conner adds a second head stack with its own actuator. Earlier twin-actuator drives limited the travel of each actuator to only a part of the disk's surface, but in the Conner design — because the head stacks are located on opposite sides of the disk — each head stack can scan the entire disk, Thus, while one actuator is reading from or writing to the disk, the second actuator can be seeking the next requested data.



Two head stacks are better than one: Conner Peripheral's new drive with dual head stacks promises to dramatically reduce access time.

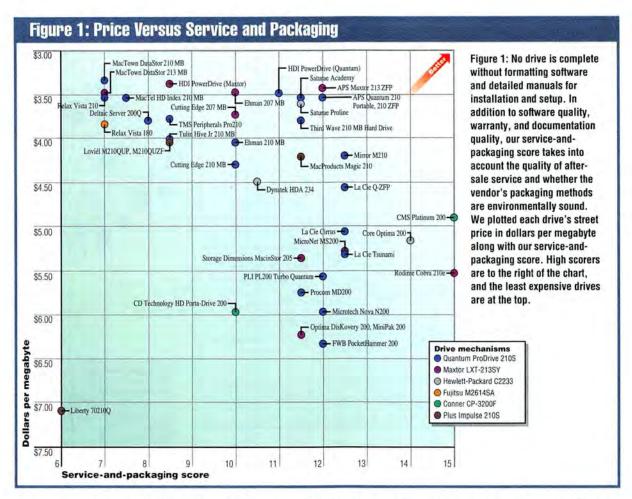
may take a little time to find blocks to replace defective ones. Most of the drives we tested had fewer than 5 of these type of factory defects, but the MicroNet MS200, the MacProducts Magic 210, and the Cutting Edge 207 MB had the most factory disk defects, with 41, 40, and 35, respectively.

One final performance-related issue for these hard drives is the news that two of the mechanisms examined in this report are being replaced by larger, faster versions. The Fujitsu M2614SA is being succeeded by the Fujitsu M2622SA, and the Quantum ProDrive 210S is being replaced by the Quantum ProDrive 240S. The new Fujitsu mechanism has a capacity of 330 megabytes instead of its predecessor's 180 megabytes. It also offers a 240K cache, a tenfold increase over its predecessor. It completed our suite of real-world tests in an impressive 4 minutes, 14 seconds; the earlier Fuiitsu mechanism took 7 minutes, 47 seconds to complete the same tests. The ProDrive 240S has a capacity of 240 megabytes, has four times the cache size of its predecessor, and finished our real-world tests in an equally impressive 4 minutes, 10 seconds. The ProDrive 210S-based drives we tested for this report took anywhere from the the 4 minutes, 48 seconds of the Relax Vista 210 and the Saturae Academy to the 5 minutes, 44 seconds of the Mac-Products Magic 210.

Bear in mind that although the new mechanisms will result in drives with higher capacities and greater speed than their predecessors, drives based on the older mechanisms may become real bargains. Regardless of which drive you buy, make sure that the mechanism you expect to receive is the one the vendor is actually shipping in the product.

Built to Last?

Maybe you don't care about smallpercentage differences in speed as much as you do about how well built the drive is or how much space it'll take up. We evaluated design details such as SCSI-ID-switch location and



type, power-switch positioning, ACoutlet availability, and how easy it is to adapt the drive to horizontal or vertical orientation. And we rated construction factors such as case quality, powersupply shielding, wiring quality, electrical fusing, length and shielding of the SCSI cable, and termination method. The more convenient and usable a product and the better its construction, the higher the score (see Figure 3).

Although most of the drives are tucked inside zero-footprint cases — the kind that fit under a Mac Classic — eight are small enough to claim some degree of briefcase portability. The Liberty 70210Q and the APS Quantum 210 Portable are the smallest. (The Optima MiniPak 200 is as small as these two, but its external power supply is as big as the drive itself.) Slightly larger than the Liberty 70210Q and

APS Quantum 210 Portable are the Core Optima 200, CD Technology HD Porta-Drive 200, La Cie Cirrus and Tsunami, and Tulin Hive Jr 210 MB. Extra points go to the Optima DisKovery 200, which offers sturdy removable feet for vertical orientation.

Cable quality may seem like a small detail, but a cable can make or break—literally — the connection between your Mac and the drive. Cable length is important; if you're daisy-chaining several drives, long cables can be a problem, because SCSI specifications limit the length of the entire daisy chain to 18 feet — unless you use a SCSI Plus extender (from Applied Concepts, of San Diego, California), which allows you to increase the length of your SCSI chain to 50 feet.

Normally, though, good cables are 3 feet long or less and are wrapped in

both a metal braid and foil to shield them from electrical noise. Better still are cables whose data wires are paired to and twisted together with a ground wire, thereby reducing signal degradation and electrical interference.

SCSI cables should have a 25-pin connector for the Mac at one end and whatever connector type is appropriate for the drive - 50-pin or 25-pinat the other end. For the drive itself, we prefer playing SCSI by the book -50-pin properly grounded connectors rather than the 25-pin connectors of the Mac. A 25-pin connector should be used only for drives that are so small that 50-pin connectors don't fit. To its credit, APS manages to fit two 50-pin SCSI connectors on its Quantum 210 Portable, which is about the same size as the Liberty 70210O, whereas the Liberty drive settles for 25-pin SCSI

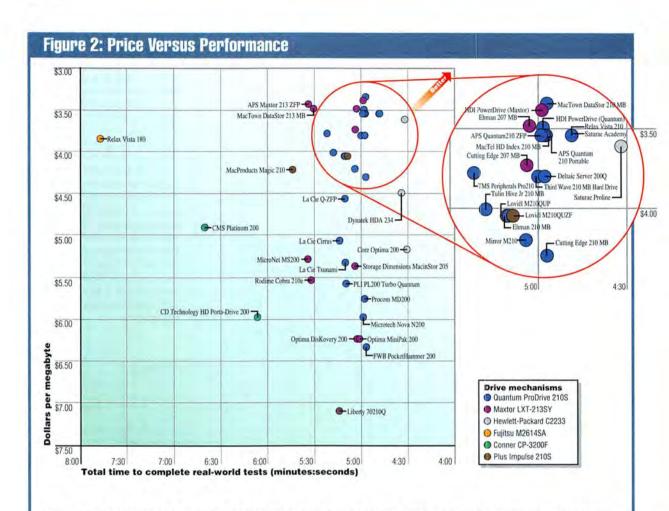


Figure 2: This plot shows which drives are the real speed-burners. We plotted each drive's street price in dollars per megabyte along with the total time it took to complete a suite of real-world tests that included file transfers, database sorts, and Photoshop file manipulation. The closer to the top of the chart, the less expensive the drive is per megabyte; the farther to the right, the faster the drive. Our real-world tests verified Hewlett-Packard's claim that it makes the fastest mechanism: The Core Optima 200, Saturae Proline, and Dynatek HDA 234 were the fastest drives, with virtually identical speeds. The faster drives based on the Quantum mechanism were so close behind them that, depending on which driver software was used or which application was tested, they almost matched some of the times of the drives based on the Hewlett-Packard mechanism.

connectors. The small La Cie Cirrus as well as the full-sized La Cie Q-ZFP have 25-pin connectors. Using 25-pin devices in SCSI chains that contain several devices can create signal problems, which is why many peripheral manufacturers recommend against mixing 25-pin and 50-pin devices in the same SCSI chain.

A Better ID

Every SCSI drive in a chain of connected devices must have a unique SCSI-ID number from 0 to 6; 0 is used

by external drives only when the Mac has no internal hard-disk drive, and the Mac is always 7. SCSI-ID selectors that limit the choice to valid numbers — 0 to 6 — prevent installation foulups and earned an extra point in our evaluation.

The best place for a SCSI-ID selector or indicator is on a drive's front panel, where you can easily see the ID number when you're setting up your drive. Unfortunately, the only company we know of that offers SCSI-ID selection and an indicator on the front panel of

its high-end drives is GCC Technologies — and it doesn't make a 200-megabyte drive. The worst place for the SCSI-ID selector is on the back of the drive next to the power switch, where you can inadvertently change the SCSI-ID number each time you turn the drive on. Core, Loviél, and Storage Dimensions all have the SCSI-ID selector in this precarious location.

The best (and most goof-proof) design for a SCSI-ID selector is a pushbutton rotary selector with locking tabs. Deltaic, Dynatek, FWB, MacTel, and Third Wave all use this style of ID selector. The worst method of SCSI-ID selection is the old-fashioned bank of DIP switches, still used by La Cie for its drives.

To function properly, the SCSI chain requires termination at both ends. Your Mac's internal drive is already terminated, but you must terminate the other end of the chain if your drive is the last device in the chain. Termination isn't a problem if the drive supports external termination or if internal termination can be controlled from outside the case, such as with the La Cie drives, which use an external switch for termination (unfortunately, though, it's a tiny DIP switch). Least convenient is internal termination that requires that you open the case and remove resistors; the drives from Cutting Edge, Ehman, HDI, Liberty, Loviél, Mac-Products, MacTel, MacTown, Rodime, Third Wave, and TMS Peripherals are all internally terminated.

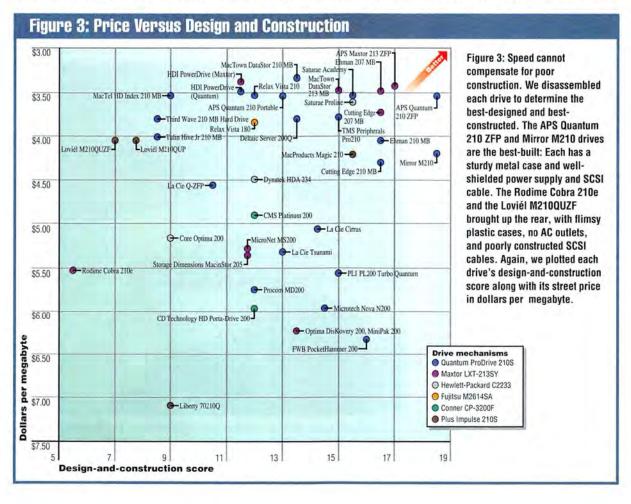
On the other hand, Optima deserves a salute for the informative LEDs that indicate whether or not your SCSI chain is properly terminated that the company has built into its terminating blocks. Such indicators are a boon for troubleshooting. Ultimately, we'd like vendors to successfully implement active termination — circuitry that terminates the drive automatically — so that users won't have to think about it. Although many vendors say that they're looking into active termination, none have yet implemented it.

In addition to taking all these SCSI details into account, our construction and design evaluations involved scoring drives for items such as power-

switch placement. Power switches belong on the front of the drive, so you don't have to grope to turn on your hard drive, and the switch should be recessed to prevent accidents. Unfortunately, all the vendors followed Apple's lead and put the power switches on the rear.

Solid, Sturdy Construction

Our drive deconstruction uncovered several products that have fully shielded, enclosed power supplies. Such power supplies offer safety and reliability — the shielding keeps the inquisitive safe from electrocution and protects the drive mechanism from electrical interference from the power supply. The three APS drives, the Loviél M210QUZF, the MacTel HD Index 210 MB, and the Optima DisKovery 200 all feature fully



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shielded, enclosed power supplies.

Finally, we looked at additional assurances of safety, such as evidence of UL approval, which demonstrates that a product has passed electrical- and fire-safety tests developed by the Underwriters' Laboratories. Only four products - the PLI PL200 Turbo Quantum, the Rodime Cobra 210e, and the Storage Dimensions Macin-Stor 205 as well as the Optima MiniPak 200's external transformer- were emblazoned with the UL label, UL approval alone is no assurance that a product is well made, though. For example, we rated the UL-approved Rodime Cobra 210e the lowest for

design and construction, because of its flimsy plastic case, internal termination, and unshielded power supply.

Designate a Drive

Although you can't completely avoid the effects of either dollar or data inflation, following this report's recommendations should help you dull the bite of both. Many drive vendors offer a variety of hard-drive mechanisms, which have different capacities, speeds, and warranties. Be sure you know which mechanism you want before calling for a price.

To increase the complexity of your purchasing decision, Quantum and

Fujitsu's new mechanisms are faster than those of the drives we tested for this report. Be sure to check which Fujitsu or Quantum mechanism you are buying.

Once you've narrowed the field to the vendors that offer the mechanism you want, check the accompanying figures and table to help you decide which of those vendors offer the combination of package, documentation, service, and warranty you require. For a look at our favorites, check the "Bottom Line" sidebar.

Winn L. Rosch offers all-purpose computer knowledge in *The Winn Rosch Hardware Bible*.

The Bottom Line

Any one of these 41 hard-disk systems will give you more than enough megabytes to withstand the next round of data inflation. However, six drives stand out from the rest by offering the best combinations of speed, sturdy construction, easy installation, and long-term support and security.

The APS Quantum 210 ZFP (\$699 direct) was simply the best-built drive we tested. Although its performance was near the middle of the pack, its price per megabyte was among the lowest. We'd choose it as a long-term survivor.

The Mirror M210 (\$829 direct) almost equaled the APS Quantum 210 ZFP in construction quality. The Mirror M210 is more expensive but the company offers better support, so if you're willing to pay a bit more, you'll get a bit more with the M210.

The Saturae Proline (\$799 direct) and the Core Optima 200 (\$1,429 list, \$1,143 street) were the fastest drives in our real-world tests. The speed scores of these drives, which are both based on the Hewlett-Packard mechanism, provide enough incentive to buy either of them — both also offer five-year warranties — but the Proline is of sturdier construction and has one of the lowest per-megabyte costs. Pick the Proline if speed and warranty are your top concerns.

Saturae's other drive, the Saturae Academy (\$699 direct), which is based on a Quantum mechanism, is as well constructed as the Proline and is also a top performer. With this drive, you get almost

the speed of the fastest drives and the same quality of construction.

The TMS Peripherals Pro210 (\$745 direct) didn't stand out in any one test, but it never let us down. The combination of

better-than-average speed, design and construction quality, packaging, and support is a sum greater than its parts. This is a good choice for a general-purpose hard drive.



The overall best bets to beat data inflation (from left to right): the TMS Peripherals Pro210, Saturae Proline, APS Quantum 210 ZFP, Core Optima 200, Mirror M210, and Saturae Academy.





Being the best at CD-ROM takes a big commitment.



Not to mention a little one.

Whether we're coming up with big ideas, or small ones, NEC is always leading the way in CD-ROM. 😭 Take our readers. We have a complete line. With everything from high performance desktop models to the first truly portable* CD-ROM reader. The Intersect™ CDR-35. A product PC Magazine called one of the best of 1990. And winner of Systems Integration product of the year. A piece of CD-ROM technology topped only by our portable CDR-36M. What's more, our Intersect CDR-73M and CDR-83M drives have the fastest** data access rates in the business. In fact, with speeds of 280 milliseconds you might even be inclined to call them speed readers. 😂 All this from NEC. Whose CD-ROM products are known for their high quality and reliability. So high that we're offering a two-year limited warranty on every new reader. 😂 For product literature, or the nearest dealer location, call 1-800-NEC-INFO. 😭 CD-ROM from NEC. Our commitment to excellence is big. No matter what size the product.

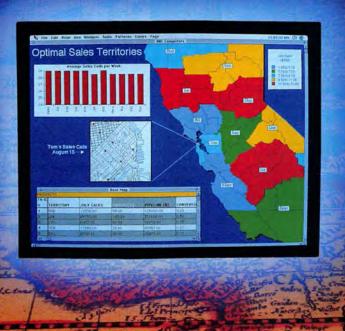
CIRCLE 142 ON READER SERVICE CARD.





● = yes ○ = no	APS Maxtor 213 ZFP	APS Quantum 210 Portable	APS Quantum 210 ZFP \$\$\$\$	CD Technology HD Porta-Drive 200
List price	\$689	\$699	\$699	\$1,599
Street price	\$689	\$699	\$699	\$1,200
Pros	Inexpensive. Good SCSI cable. Good documentation. Metal case.	Good SCSI cable. Good documentation. Portable.	Good SCSI cable. Good documentation. Metal case.	Portable.
Cons		No external fuse.		Expensive. No SCSI cable. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs
Hardware Capacity (advert./actual)	213 MB/200.6 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	212.6 MB/200.9 MB
Internal mechanism	Maxtor LXT-213SY	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Conner CP-3200F
SCSI-ID selector	push button	push button	push button	push button
SCSI termination	external	external	external	external
Software and features		400		1000000
Bundled software	18 MB of shareware	18 MB of shareware	18 MB of shareware	none
Formatter	Alliance Power Tools 2.06	Alliance Power Tools 2.06	Alliance Power Tools 2.06	Disk Manager Mac
Password protection	•	•	•	•
Data encryption	0	0	0	0
Disk optimizer	0	0	0	0
Backup	•	•	•	0
File recovery	0	0	0	0
Construction				
Indicator lights	access and power	access and power	access and power	access and power
Size (L x W x H)	10 x 9.5 x 2 in.	8 x 6 x 2.5 in.	10 x 9.5 x 2 in.	8.5 x 7 x 2 in.
Case material	metal	plastic with EMI coating	metal	plastic
Fuse	external and internal	internal	external and internal	internal
Fan AC outlets	yes	no no	yes	yes no
A Designation of the Control of the	yes	110	yes	110
Other	Quanta	Queero	Queero	1 waar
Standard warranty Service center	2 years direct	2 years direct	2 years direct	1 year direct or dealer
Money-back guarantee	30 days	30 days	30 days	O direct or dealer
Turnaround time	48 hours	48 hours	48 hours	0
Extended warranty	O	0	0	0
Toll-free tech support	•	•	•	0
Data-recovery service	0	0	0	•
Company	Alliance Peripheral Systems 2900 S. 291 Hwy. Independence, MO 64057 (800) 233-7550 (816) 478-8300	Alliance Peripheral Systems 2900 S. 291 Hwy. Independence, MO 64057 (800) 233-7550 (816) 478-8300	Alliance Peripheral Systems 2900 S. 291 Hwy. Independence, MO 64057 (800) 233-7550 (816) 478-8300	CD Technology 766 San Aleso Ave. Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (408) 752-8500

ATLAS PRO A NEW DIMENSION IN DATA MANAGEMENT



ost business and government professionals view and analyze data only on spreadsheets, databases and occasionally in business graphics packages. While these types of software are useful for displaying statistical data, they fall short

of communicating information about geography — such as income by sales territory, population by county, or customers by ZIP codes or street addresses.

Atlas Pro is changing that. By linking data from spreadsheets, databases and even other applications — on your Macintosh® or elsewhere in your AppleTalk™ network — you can now add the important geographical dimension to your information system.

And when we say important, we mean mission critical. For example, *Atlas Pro* can help business professionals answer "what if" and "show me where" questions for optimizing sales territories, targeting

customers, and selecting ideal site locations. Government professionals can use *Atlas Pro* for everything from political redistricting to land-use planning and public safety

> analysis. Without Atlas Pro these tasks would be difficult or impossible.

Atlas Pro comes equipped with a built-in data management spreadsheet,

map importing and digitizing tools, a generous base map and data sampler from our comprehensive library, pie and bar charting and powerful graphics enhancement tools.

Of course, Atlas Pro is completely System 7 "savvy."

It supports everything from balloon

help to publish and subscribe, the Data Access Manager, and Apple Events. It also runs fine on System 6, and there's a version for PC compatibles.

So if you're ready to add a dynamic new dimension to the way you use information, like 20,000 other Strategic Mapping customers, call us at (408) 985-7400 or fax us at (408) 985-0859 for a free *Desktop Mapping Guidebook* and demo disk. We'd be happy to map out a plan for you.



● = yes ○ = no	CMS Platinum 200	Core Optima 200	Cutting Edge 207 MB \$\$\$½	Cutting Edge 210 MB \$\$\$½
List price	\$1,639	\$1,429	\$1,119	\$1,279
Street price	\$985	\$1,143	\$749	\$849
Pros	Good formatter. Good documentation. Metal case.	Fastest. Longest warranty.	Metal case.	Metal case.
Cons	Slow. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Flimsy case. Exposed internal wiring. No external fuse. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Internal termination. Poor formatter. One-year warranty. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Internal termination. Poor formatter. One-year warranty. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.
Hardware Capacity (advert./actual)	212.6 MB/200.9 MB	234 MB/221.6 MB	207 MB/200.6 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB
Internal mechanism	Conner CP-3200F	HP C2233	Maxtor LXT-213SY	Quantum ProDrive 210S
SCSI-ID selector	push button	push button	push button	push button
SCSI termination	external	external	internal	internal
Software and features Bundled software	SUM II	SUM II	none	none
Formatter	CMS Utilities 7.0.2	Core Formatter 3.2	CE HDD Formatter	CE HDD Formatter
Password protection	•	•	0	0
Data encryption	•	•	0	0
Disk optimizer	•	•	0	0
Backup	•	•	0	0
File recovery	•	•	0	0
Construction				
Indicator lights	access	access and power	access and power	access and power
Size (L x W x H)	10.5 x 10 x 2.5 in.	8.5 x 7 x 2 in.	10.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	10.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.
Case material	metal	plastic	metal	metal
Fuse Fan	internal	internal	external and internal	external and internal
AC outlets	yes	yes	yes yes	yes yes
	110	110	703	y00
Other Standard warranty	1 year	5 years	1 year	1 year
Standard warranty Service center	1 year dealer	direct or dealer	1 year dealer	1 year dealer
Money-back guarantee	O	O	O	O
Turnaround time	0	0	0	0
Extended warranty	0	0	0	0
Toll-free tech support	0	0	0	0
Data-recovery service	0	0	0	0
Company	CMS Enhancements, Inc. 2722 Michelson Dr. Irvine, CA 92715 (714) 222-6000	Core International, Inc. 7171 N. Federal Hwy. Boca Raton, FL 33487 (407) 997-6044	Cutting Edge 97 S. Red Willow Dr. P.O. Box 1259 Evanston, WY 82931 (307) 789-3830	Cutting Edge 97 S. Red Willow Dr. P.O. Box 1259 Evanston, WY 82931 (307) 789-3830



Let's say you have this outrageous design. But your color printer just doesn't get it. Looks like a job for the new Phaser™ III.

It has the broadest range of colors available—16.7 million of them—all delivered at 300 dpi with TekColor[™] and Pantone-approved color matching. You'll get brilliant color on any paper, from stationery to card stock. And it takes up to 12"x 18" so you can even print tabloid bleeds.

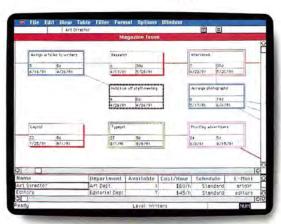
Ten MB RAM and a 24 MHz RISC chip make it the fastest printer controller around. And with Adobe's PostScript™ Language Level 2, your stuff will look great. So go ahead. Throw out the wildest idea you can think of. The Phaser III can take it. Call 1-800-835-6100, Dept. 18A for a free output sample.

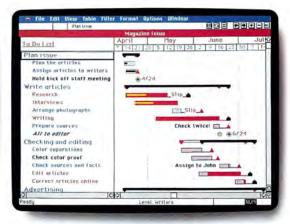
CIRCLE 40 ON READER SERVICE CARD.

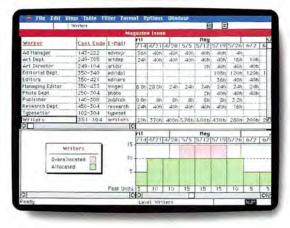


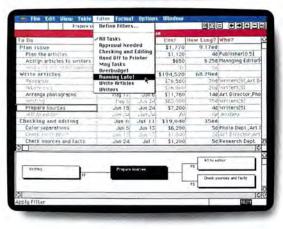
● = yes ○ = no	Deltaic Server 200Q	Dynatek HDA 234 \$\$\$%	Ehman 207 MB \$\$\$½	Ehman 210 MB \$\$\$%
List price	\$749	\$1,329	\$699	\$799
Street price	\$749	\$995	\$699	\$799
Pros	Good documentation. Metal case.	Fast. Metal case. Local dealer support.	Inexpensive. Good documentation. Metal case.	Good documentation. Metal case.
Cons	Unshielded power supply. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Unshielded power supply. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Internal termination. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Internal termination. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.
Hardware Capacity (advert./actual)	210 MB/197.3 MB	234 MB/221.6 MB	213 MB/200.6 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB
Internal mechanism	Quantum ProDrive 210S	HP C2233	Maxtor LXT-213SY	Quantum ProDrive 210S
SCSI-ID selector	push button	push button	push button	push button
SCSI termination	external	external	internal	internal
Software and features Bundled software	none	none	none	none
Formatter	Deltaic System Installer	ComPass Utilities	Ehman HDD Formatter	Ehman HDD Formatter
Password protection	0	•	0	0
Data encryption	0	0	0	0
Disk optimizer	0	0	0	0
Backup	0	0	0	0
File recovery	0	0	0	0
Construction				
Indicator lights	access and power	access and power	access and power	access and power
Size (L x W x H)	10 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	10 x 10 x 3 in.	10.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	10.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.
Case material	metal	metal	metal	metal
Fuse	external and internal	external and internal	external and internal	external and internal
Fan	yes	yes	yes	yes
AC outlets	no	no	yes	yes
Other		No. of the last of	150	La constitución de la constituci
Standard warranty	2 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
Service center	direct	dealer	direct	direct
Money-back guarantee	0	0	0	0
Turnaround time	0	0	0	0
Extended warranty Toll-free tech support	0	0	0	0
Data-recovery service	0	•	0	0
Company	Deltaic Systems, Inc.	Dynatek Automation Systems	Ehman, Inc.	Ehman, Inc.
Company	1701 Junction Ct., #302B	15 Tangiers Rd.	97 S. Red Willow Dr.	97 S. Red Willow Dr.
	San Jose, CA 95112	Toronto, Ontario M3J 2B1	P.O. Box 2126	P.O. Box 2126
	(800) 745-1240	Canada	Evanston, WY 82931	Evanston, WY 82931
	(408) 441-1240	(416) 636-3000	(800) 257-1666	(800) 257-1666
			(307) 789-3830	(307) 789-3830

Before you start your next project, check your options.









New Microsoft Project for the Macintosh lets you enter and view your

Microsoft Project

data just about any way you choose. Customize reports to your liking. And schedule resources across multiple projects with ease. But see for yourself. Call (800) 541-1261, Dept. Z24, to order your own \$9.95* working model. Then using that other project management program will be (whew!) optional.

Microsoft

FWB PocketHammer 200 \$\$\$\frac{1}{2}\$ \$1,749 \$1,249 Excellent formatter. Excellent documentation. Metal case. Portable. Expensive. No money-back guarantee. 210 MB/197.3 MB Quantum ProDrive 210S push button external	HDI PowerDrive (Maxtor) \$\$\$\frac{1}{2}\$ \$679 \$679 Metal case. Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs. 213 MB/200.7 MB Maxtor LXT-213SY push button	HDI PowerDrive (Quantum) \$\$\$\frac{1}{2}\$ \$689 \$689 Metal case. Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs. 210 MB/197.3 MB Quantum ProDrive 210S	La Cie Cirrus \$\$\$\$\$ \$999 \$999 \$witched termination. DIP switches. No external fus No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs. 210 MB/197.3 MB Quantum ProDrive 210S
\$1,749 \$1,249 Excellent formatter. Excellent documentation. Metal case. Portable. Expensive. No money-back guarantee. 210 MB/197.3 MB Quantum ProDrive 210S push button	\$679 \$679 Metal case. Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs. 213 MB/200.7 MB Maxtor LXT-213SY push button	\$689 \$689 Metal case. Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	\$999 \$999 Switched termination. DIP switches. No external fus No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.
\$1,749 \$1,249 Excellent formatter. Excellent documentation. Metal case. Portable. Expensive. No money-back guarantee. 210 MB/197.3 MB Quantum ProDrive 210S push button	\$679 \$679 Metal case. Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs. 213 MB/200.7 MB Maxtor LXT-213SY push button	\$689 Metal case. Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	\$999 Switched termination. DIP switches. No external fus No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.
Excellent formatter. Excellent documentation. Metal case. Portable. Expensive. No money-back guarantee. 210 MB/197.3 MB Quantum ProDrive 210S push button	Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs. 213 MB/200.7 MB Maxtor LXT-213SY push button	Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	DIP switches. No external fus No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.
Excellent documentation. Metal case. Portable. Expensive. No money-back guarantee. 210 MB/197.3 MB Quantum ProDrive 210S push button	Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs. 213 MB/200.7 MB Maxtor LXT-213SY push button	Internal termination. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	DIP switches. No external fus No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.
210 MB/197.3 MB Quantum ProDrive 210S push button	Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs. 213 MB/200.7 MB Maxtor LXT-213SY push button	Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.
Quantum ProDrive 210S push button	Maxtor LXT-213SY push button	217 1101 12112 111	EVENUE VENUE
push button	push button	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Quantum ProDrive 210S
external		push button	DIP switches
	internal	internal	internal with ext. switch
Hard Disk ToolKit	none	none	10 MB of shareware
Hammer Install 1.3d	Disk Manager Mac	Disk Manager Mac	Silverlining
•	•	•	•
			0
			•
			0
0	O	O	O
Salarana, contra		and a series of the	
	The state of the s		none
1717 W 1717 W 17 W 1			9.5 x 6.5 x 3 in. plastic with EMI coating
		NATURE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE	internal
The state of the s	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000		yes
no	no	no	no
2 years	1 year	1 year	2 years
direct or dealer	direct	direct	direct or dealer
0	30 days	30 days	0
48 hours	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	•	•	•
0	•	10	•
FWB, Inc. 2040 Polk St., Ste. 215 San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 474-8055	Hard Drives International 1912 W. 4th St. Tempe, AZ 85281 (800):767-3475	Hard Drives International 1912 W. 4th St. Tempe, AZ 85281 (800) 767-3475	La Cie Ltd. 19552 S.W. 90th Ct. Tualatin, OR 97062 (800) 999-0143 (503) 691-0771
	Hammer Install 1.3d access and power 8.5 x 6.5 x 3 in. metal external and internal yes no 2 years direct or dealer 48 hours FWB, Inc. 2040 Polk St., Ste. 215 San Francisco, CA 94109	Hammer Install 1.3d Disk Manager Mac O O C C C C C C C C C C	Hammer Install 1.3d

Choose Your Standard



Infinity Turbo 88 Drive

The demands for high-capacity data storage have been steadily increasing. The most efficient way to increase data storage as your needs grow is with removable media and the Infinity Turbo 88.

- 80MB+ removable cartridge SCSI drive
- · Faster access times and transfer rates
- 60,000 hours MTBF
- · Lower cost-per-megabyte
- · External switches for termination and SCSI address
- 5 year warranty on cartridge



Infinity Optical 3.5" Drive

The PLI Infinity Optical 3.5" optical cartridge drive is the latest in data storage technology! Each single-sided cartridge holds approximately 128MB of data. The new cartridges have all the reliability of their big brothers and offer one great advantage — the cartridges fit into your shirt pocket.

- 120MB+
- · Faster access times and transfer rates
- ISO/ANSI standard
- Rewritable magneto-optical SCSI drive



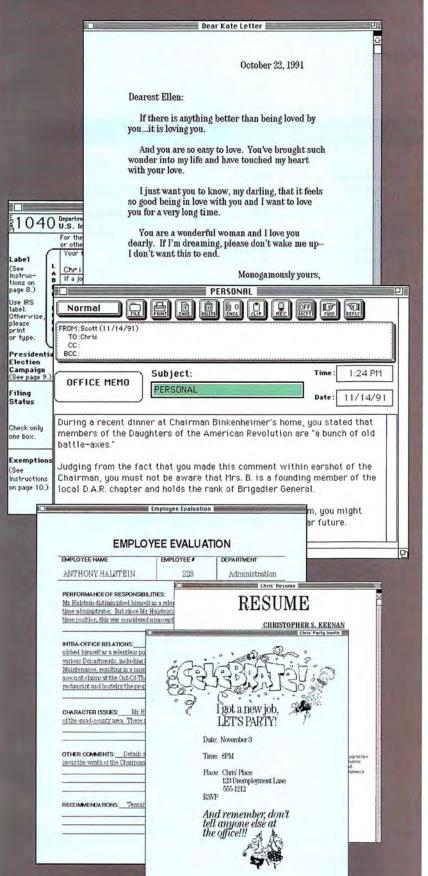
Infinity Floptical 21MB Drive

This drive combines the familiarity and ease-of-use of floppy drives with the reliability of modern hard drives and opticals. What you get is the ability to read, write and format 720K, 1.44MB and 21MB floppy diskettes. Infinity Floptical 21MB is perfect for backups, archiving or transferring small to medium amounts of data across the office or — the world.

- Floptical diskettes have 21MB capacity
- Reads and writes 720K and 1.44MB floppies
- 80ms access time much faster than standard floppies
- · Optical tracking and ECC for high reliability
- External switches for termination and SCSI address
- Compatible with all Macintosh computers



● = yes ○ = no	La Cie Q-ZFP \$\$\$%	La Cie Tsunami \$\$\$½	Liberty 70210Q \$\$\$	Loviél M210QUP \$\$\$
List price	\$899	\$1,049	\$1,399	\$1,299
Street price	\$899	\$1,049	\$1,399	\$799
Pros	Switched termination. Metal case.	Switched termination. Portable.	Metal case. Carrying case provided. Portable.	Portable.
Cons	DIP switches. No external fuse. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	DIP switches, No external fuse. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Highest street price. Internal termination. No formatter shipped. No external fuse. Poor documentation. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Internal termination. Flimsy case. No external fuse No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.
Hardware Capacity (advert./actual)	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB
Internal mechanism	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Plus Impulse 210S	Plus Impulse 210S
SCSI-ID selector	DIP switches	DIP switches	dial	push button
SCSI termination	internal with ext. switch	internal with ext. switch	internal	internal
Software and features Bundled software	10 MB of shareware	10 MB of shareware	none	none
Formatter	Silverlining	Silverlining	SCSI Director	SCSI Director
Password protection	•	•	•	•
Data encryption	0	0	0	0
Disk optimizer	•	•	0	0
Backup	0	0	•	•
File recovery	0	0	0	0
Construction				
Indicator lights	access and power	access and power	access and power	access and power
Size (L x W x H)	9.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	8.5 x 6 x 2.5 in.	7 x 5 x 2 in.	8.5 x 7 x 2.5 in.
Case material	metal	plastic with EMI coating	metal	plastic
Fuse	internal	internal	internal	internal
Fan	yes	yes	yes	yes
AC outlets	no	no	no	no
Other				
Standard warranty	2 years	2 years	1 year	2 years
Service center	direct or dealer	direct or dealer	none	none
Money-back guarantee Turnaround time	0	0	30 days	0
Extended warranty	0	0	0	0
Toll-free tech support	•	•	0	0
Data-recovery service	•	•	0	0
Company	La Cie Ltd. 19552 S.W. 90th Ct. Tualatin, OR 97062 (800) 999-0143 (503) 691-0771	La Cie Ltd. 19552 S.W. 90th Ct. Tualatin, OR 97062 (800) 999-0143 (503) 691-0771	Liberty Systems, Inc. 160 Saratoga Ave., Ste. 38 Santa Clara, CA 95051 (408) 983-1127	Loviél Computer Corp. 5174 W. 76th St. Edina, MN 55439 (612) 835-3553



Your Mac can say a lot about you.

If somebody sat down at your Mac and started snooping around your disk, which would embarrass you more?

The details of your love life? Your resume? Your adjusted gross income?

How about the Confidential Employee Evaluation you were working on when the Boss hauled you into his office for a chat?

What? You never thought about this before? Then read on and you'll never have to think about it again.

All you'll have to think about is your password.

That's the key to DiskLock,™ the painless, yet powerful, System 7 savvy way to keep other people's noses permanently out of both your personal and professional data.

You can password-protect selected files, folders or your entire hard disk. And encrypt everything to U.S. Government DES specs.

DISKLOCK

You don't even have to be there. DiskLock blanks your screen and secures your system for you — without interrupting your applications whenever you wander off.

When you return, it asks for your password

and lets you know if anyone got curious while you were away.

If you're curious about DiskLock, or about our one-year money-back guarantee, call 1-800-666-2904.

We'll give you all the juicy details.



● = yes ○ = no	Loviél M210QUZF \$\$\$	MacProducts Magic 210 \$\$\$\frac{1}{2}\$	MacTel HD Index 210 MB \$\$\$	MacTown DataStor 210 MB
List price	\$1,299	\$830	\$749	\$659
Street price	\$799	\$830	\$749	\$659
Pros		Metal case.	Inexpensive.	Inexpensive.
Cons	Internal termination. Flimsy case. No external fuse. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Internal termination. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Internal termination, Poor documentation, No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Internal termination. Poor documentation. No money-back guarantee.
Hardware				
Capacity (advert./actual)	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB
Internal mechanism	Plus Impulse 210S	Plus Impulse 210S	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Quantum ProDrive 210S
SCSI-ID selector SCSI termination	push button	push button internal	push button internal	push button
	internal	Internal	internal	internal
Software and features Bundled software	none	none	Backamatic, AutoSave	none
Formatter	SCSI Director	Disk Manager Mac	Index HD Utilities Installer	Dataware
Password protection	•	•	0	•
Data encryption	0	0	0	0
Disk optimizer	0	0	0	0
Backup File recovery	0	0	0	0
	O	0	0	O
Construction	annual trade from	Andrews American	and the second second	and the same of the same
Indicator lights	access and power	access and power	access and power	access and power
Size (L x W x H) Case material	10.5 x 10 x 2.5 in.	10 x 9.5 x 2.5 in. metal	10 x 10 x 2.5 in. plastic with EMI coating	10 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.
Fuse	internal	external and internal	external and internal	external and internal
Fan	yes	yes	yes	yes
AC outlets	no	yes	no	yes
Other				
Standard warranty	2 years	2 years	2 years	1 year
Service center	none	direct	direct	dealer
Money-back guarantee	0	0	0	0
Turnaround time	0	0	0	24 hours
Extended warranty	0	0	0	0
Toll-free tech support	0	0	0	•
Data-recovery service	0	•	0	0
Company	Loviél Computer Corp. 5174 W. 76th St. Edina, MN 55439 (612) 835-3553	MacProducts USA 608 W. 22nd St. Austin, TX 78705 (512) 472-8881	MacTel Technology 3007 N. Lamar Austin, TX 78705 (800) 950-8411	Data Storage Marketing, Inc 5718 Central Ave. Boulder, CO 80301 (800) 543-6098



...When You Need the Highest Performance From the Quadra 700 and Quadra 900 - Nothing's More Powerful Than Our Data Storage Solutions.

If you're looking for the most powerful hard disk, rewritable optical, and tape backup systems for the Apple Quadra, we invite you to think MicroNet.

Think of our RAVEN.040 disk arrays when you need up to 4,260 MB of unbelievably fast hard disk storage. With 7.0 MB/sec sustained transfers and a significantly reduced access time of 5.5 ms, it's no wonder RAVEN.040 is the MacUser Eddy Award winner for the Best Storage Product of 1991.

What's more, the RAVEN-040 uses both high performance SCSI ports of the Quadra 900, leaving all five NuBus slots open for other devices.

Think of our internal rewritable optical systems when you want removable storage for the Quadra 900.

MicroNet's new 3.5" optical drive has a fast access time of 38 ms. And it lets you affordably store 128 MB of data on a shirt-pocket-size disk.

Think of MicroNet's single hard drive systems for the Quadra 700 and 900 when you need up to 2,130 MB of reliable SCSI data storage. And if it's removable cartridge drives or tape backup you're looking for, MicroNet offers

backup you're looking for, MicroNet offers 44 and 88 MB SyQuest cartridge systems, and streaming tape and DAT backup to 5.0 GB.

So when you need the most powerful hard disk and removable data storage systems for the Quadra 700 and 900, think MicroNet.

Call our Sales Department today for the name of a Reseller near you. 1-714-837-6033.



MicroNet Technology, Inc.

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				6 *
● = yes ○ = no	MacTown DataStor 213 MB \$\$\$\frac{1}{2}\$	MicroNet MS200 \$15½	Microtech Nova N200 \$\$\$%	Mirror M210
List price	\$699	\$1,445	\$1,699	\$829
Street price	\$699	\$1,059	\$1,178	\$829
Pros	Inexpensive.	Good SCSI cable. Good documentation.	Expensive. Good SCSI cable. Good documentation.	Good SCSI cable. Metal case.
Cons	Internal termination. Poor documentation. One-year warranty. No money-back guarantee.	Flimsy case. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No money-back guarantee.	Unshielded power supply. No money-back guarantee.	Unshielded power supply.
Hardware				
Capacity (advert./actual)	213 MB/200.6 MB	213 MB/200.7 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB
Internal mechanism	Maxtor LXT-213SY	Maxtor LXT-213SY	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Quantum ProDrive 210S
SCSI-ID selector	push button	push button	push button	push button
SCSI termination	internal	external	external	external
Software and features Bundled software	none	none	Norton Utilities	Gofer, Inside Information, 10 MB of shareware
Formatter	Dataware	MicroNet Utilities 5.1.7	Hard Disk Formatter	Mirror Media Manager
Password protection	•	•	0	•
Data encryption	0	0	0	0
Disk optimizer	0	0	•	0
Backup	0	0	0	•
File recovery	0	0	•	0
Construction				
Indicator lights	access and power	access and power	access and power	access and power
Size (L x W x H)	10 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	10.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	10.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	11 x 9.5 x 2 in.
Case material	plastic	plastic	plastic with EMI coating	metal
Fuse	external and internal	internal	external and internal	external and internal
Fan AC autlete	yes	yes	yes	yes
AC outlets	yes	по	no	yes
Other	4	4.300	-	0
Standard warranty	1 year	1 year	5 years	2 years
Service center	dealer	direct or dealer	direct	direct
Money-back guarantee Turnaround time	O 48 hours	48 hours	O 48 hours	30 days 48 hours
Extended warranty	O	1 year (\$129)	46 Hours	O
Toll-free tech support	•	O (\$129)	•	0
Data-recovery service	0	0	0	0
Company	Data Storage Marketing, Inc. 5718 Central Ave.	MicroNet Technology 20 Mason	Microtech International, Inc. 158 Commerce St.	Mirror Technologies 2644 Patton Rd.
	Boulder, CO 80301	Irvine, CA 92718	East Haven, CT 06512	Roseville, MN 55113
	(800) 543-6098	(714) 837-6033	(800) 626-4276	(800) 654-5294
	(303) 442-4747	A COLOR OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	(203) 468-6223	(612) 633-4450

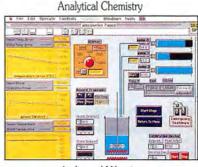


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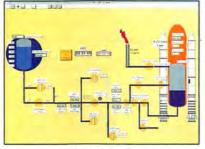
Automated Test



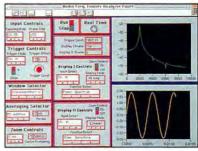
Process Control



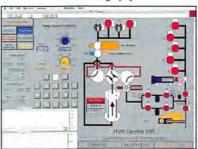
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● = yes ○ = no	Optima DisKovery 200 \$\$\$%	Optima MiniPak 200 \$\$\$%	PLI PL200 Turbo Quantum \$\$\$%	Procom MD200 \$\$\$
List price	\$1,895	\$1,895	\$1,199	\$1,555
Street price	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,099	\$1,135
Pros	Good SCSI cable. Good documentation.	Good SCSI cable. Good documentation.	External fuse.	Good SCSI cable. Good documentation.
Cons	Expensive. Flimsy case. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Expensive. Flimsy case. No external fuse. One-year warranty. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Poor manual illustrations. One-year warranty. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Flimsy case. No external fusione-year warranty. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.
Hardware Capacity (advert./actual)	210 MB/200.6 MB	210 MB/200.6 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB
Internal mechanism	Maxtor LXT-213SY	Maxtor LXT-213SY	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Quantum ProDrive 210S
SCSI-ID selector	push button	push button	dial	dial
SCSI termination	external	external	external	external
Software and features Bundled software	disk-mirroring software	disk-mirroring software	12 MB of shareware	none
Formatter	Optima DiskMount	Optima DiskMount	PLI Formatter	Procom 3.04
Password protection	•	•	0	•
Data encryption	0	0	0	0
Disk optimizer	0	0	•	0
Backup	0	0	•	0
File recovery	0	0	0	0
Construction				
Indicator lights	access and power	access and power	access	access and power
Size (L x W x H)	10 x 11.5 x 2.5 in.	8 x 6 x 2.5 in.	9.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	10.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.
Case material	plastic	plastic	metal	plastic
Fuse	internal	internal	external and internal	internal
Fan	yes	yes	yes	yes
AC outlets	no	no	no	no
Other				
Standard warranty	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
Service center	direct or dealer	direct or dealer	direct or dealer	dealer
Money-back guarantee	0	0	0	0
Turnaround time Extended warranty	3 110310	2 1/02/20	0	0
Toll-free tech support	3 years	3 years	0	0
Data-recovery service	0	0	0	0
Company	Optima Technology Corp. 17526 Von Karman Irvine, CA 92714 (714) 476-0515	Optima Technology Corp. 17526 Von Karman Irvine, CA 92714 (714) 476-0515	Peripheral Land, Inc. 47421 Bayside Pkwy. Fremont, CA 94538 (800) 288-8754 (510) 657-2211	Procom Technology, Inc. P.O. Box 8975 Newport Beach, CA 92658 (714) 549-9449

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● = yes ○ = no	Relax Vista 180 \$\$\$	Relax Vista 210 \$\$\$½	Rodime Cobra 210e \$\$\$	Saturae Academy \$\$\$\$
List price	\$659	\$699	\$1,799	\$699
Street price	\$659	\$699	\$1,110	\$699
Pros	Good documentation. Metal case.	Good documentation. Metal case.	Good bundled software. Good documentation.	Fast. Good documentation. Metal case.
Cons	Slowest. Poor formatter. No external fuse.	Poor formatter. No external fuse.	Internal termination. Flimsy case. Unshielded power supply. No external fuse. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	No money-back guarantee.
Hardware Capacity (advert./actual)	180 MB/171.7 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/206 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB
Internal mechanism	Fujitsu M2614SA	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Maxtor LXT-213SY	Quantum ProDrive 210S
SCSI-ID selector	push button	push button	push button	push button
SCSI termination	external	external	internal	external
Software and features Bundled software	none	none	Mac Tools Deluxe	none
Formatter	Relax Installer 1.13	Relax Installer 1.13	Cobra Driver Utility	Dataware 2.0.1
Password protection	0	0	•	•
Data encryption	0	0	•	0
Disk optimizer	0	0 .		0
Backup	0	0	•	0
File recovery	0	0	•	0
Construction				
Indicator lights	access and power	access and power	access and power	access and power
Size (L x W x H)	11 x 10 x 2.5 in.	11 x 10 x 2.5 in.	9.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	10 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.
Case material	metal	metal	plastic	metal
Fuse	internal	internal	internal	external and internal
Fan	yes	yes	yes	yes
AC outlets	no	no	no	yes
Other		The state of the s	Annual Control	1
Standard warranty	3 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
Service center	direct	direct	direct or dealer	direct
Money-back guarantee	30 days	30 days	0	O 49 hours
Turnaround time Extended warranty	48 hours	48 hours	0	48 hours
Toll-free tech support	0	0	0	•
Data-recovery service	0	0	0	0
Company	Relax Technology 3101 Whipple Rd. Union City, CA 94587 (510) 471-6112	Relax Technology 3101 Whipple Rd. Union City, CA 94587 (510) 471-6112	Rodime Systems, Inc. 7700 W. Camino Real Boca Raton, FL 33433 (407) 994-5585	Saturae Corp. 148 Richdale Ave. Cambridge, MA 02140 (800) 373-3063 (617) 661-8166

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Over the past four years I've been associted with over 50,000 people attempting to earn the Macintosh computer. I've watched is each person wages their own personal, rivate battle to master the computer and the nost popular Macintosh programs.

I've seen their frustration, have empanized with their confusion, and understood heir computer fears. I've talked to workers the have had new computers and new rograms simply dropped on their desk with he directive to, "learn this." I've listened to eople who have struggled night after night ying to read and understand a computer nanual. Can you imagine trying to understand and master 4th Dimension from the tannual?

You would be surprised at the number of eople who have confided with me the fact nat they've given up trying to learn some of the programs. They put the box on the shelf and write the expenditure off as a bad investment.

lard Earned Money Wasted

Can you imagine how much money has seen wasted on programs and computers at are sitting abandoned? Right now think if the people working on Macs in your ffice. Do they really understand the comuter? Do they know what to do when it goes own? How many programs are each of our people using? Have they really mastred the programs they're using? Do they now the short-cuts and valuable techniques at will save you time, money, and increase our professionalism?

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The Macintosh Part 1-6.0 or 7.0

The Macintosh Part 2-6.0 or 7.0

The Macintosh Part 3-6.0 or 7.0

Macintosh Networks

● = yes ○ = no	Saturae Proline \$\$\$\$%	Storage Dimensions MacinStor 205 \$\$\$½	Third Wave 210 MB Hard Drive \$\$\$%	TMS Peripherals Pro210
List price	\$799	\$1,509	\$749	\$745
Street price	\$799	\$1,075	\$749	\$745
Pros	Fast. Good documentation. Metal case. Five-year warranty.	Good SCSI cable. Good documentation.	Good documentation.	Metal case.
Cons	No money-back guarantee.	Flimsy case. No external fuse. No money-back guarantee. No guaranteed turnaround time for repairs.	Internal termination.	Internal termination. Poor documentation. No money-back guarantee.
Hardware Capacity (advert./actual)	234 MB/221.6 MB	205 MB/200.7 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB	210 MB/197.3 MB
Internal mechanism	HP C2233	Maxtor LXT-213SY	Quantum ProDrive 210S	Quantum ProDrive 210S
SCSI-ID selector	push button	push button	push button	push button
SCSI termination	external	external	internal	internal
Software and features Bundled software	none	none	none	26 MB of shareware
Formatter	Dataware 2.0.1	MacinStor 3.0.2	Disk Manager Mac	TMS Diskwriter/Formatter
Password protection	•	•	•	•
Data encryption	0	0	0	0
Disk optimizer	0	0	0	0
Backup	0	0	0	0
File recovery	0	0	0	0
Construction				
Indicator lights	access and power	access and power	access and power	access and power
Size (L x W x H)	10 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	10.5 x 9.5 x 2 in.	10 x 9.5 x 2.5 in.	10 x 9.5 x 2 in.
Case material	metal	plastic	plastic with EMI coating	metal
Fuse	external and internal	internal	external and internal	external and internal
Fan	yes	yes	yes	yes
AC outlets	yes	no	no	yes
Other				
Standard warranty	5 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
Service center	direct	direct or dealer	direct or dealer	direct
Money-back guarantee	0	0	40 haves	O 40 house
Turnaround time	48 hours	0	48 hours	48 hours
Extended warranty	0	0	0	0
Toll-free tech support Data-recovery service	0	0	•	0
Company	Saturae Corp. 148 Richdale Ave. Cambridge, MA 02140 (800) 373-3063 (617) 661-8166	Storage Dimensions 2145 Hamilton Ave. San Jose, CA 95125 (408) 879-0300	Third Wave Computing, Inc. 1826-B Kramer Ln. Austin, TX 78758 (800) 284-0486 (512) 832-8282	TMS Peripherals 23123 S.W. 58th Ave. Boca Raton, FL 33428 (800) 626-6347 (407) 998-9928

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5772/Mac



200-Megabyte Hard Drives

● = yes ○ = no	Tulin Hive Jr 210 MB \$\$\$
List price	\$789
Street price	\$789
Pros	
Cons	Poor documentation.
	No external fuse. No warranty.
	No money-back guarantee. No
	guaranteed turnaround
	time for repairs.
Hardware	
Capacity (advert./actual)	210 MB/197 MB
Internal mechanism	Quantum ProDrive 210S
SCSI-ID selector	push button
SCSI termination	external
Software and features	
Bundled software	none
Formatter	Spot On
Password protection	•
Data encryption	0
Disk optimizer	0
Backup	0
File recovery	0
Construction	
Indicator lights	access and power
Size (L x W x H)	7.5 x 7 x 2 in.
Case material	plastic
Fuse	internal
Fan	yes
AC outlets	no
Other Standard warranty	none*
Service center	direct
Money-back guarantee	O
Turnaround time	0
Extended warranty	0
Toll-free tech support	0
Data-recovery service	0
Company	Tulin Corp.
oopunj	2156 O'Toole Ave.
	San Jose, CA 95131
	(408) 432-9025

^{*}Tulin claims to offer a two-year warranty, but the box contained no warranty information.

Table 1 Criteria

List price — The manufacturer's suggested retail price for the hard-

Street price — The average actual price charged by a sample of dealers around the U.S. in November 1991.

Capacity (advert./actual) — The advertised capacity of a drive and the actual formatted capacity (usable storage space). The former typically differs from the latter.

Internal mechanism — The OEM model name of the disk mechanism used in the drive. Prior to purchase, have the vendor confirm a specific model's internal mechanism.

SCSI-ID selector — The control that is used for changing the SCSI

SCSI termination — The location or type of termination.

Bundled software — Commercial applications, utilities, or shareware that vendors include with their drive as well as software developed exclusively for their drives.

Formatter — The software that was shipped with the hard-disk drive at the time of testing that prepares the drive for use with a Macintosh.

Password protection — Does the drive's software provide a method for limiting access?

Data encryption — Does the drive's software provide a method of scrambling the drive's contents to prevent others from accessing the data unless they have a password?

Disk optimizer — Is the drive bundled with utility software for reorganizing its contents into contiguous blocks to improve its performance?

Backup — Does the drive come with software that copies files from the drive to other media for safekeeping?

File recovery — Does the drive come with a utility for rescuing deleted or damaged files?

Indicator lights — What the lights (if any) on the front of the drive indicate.

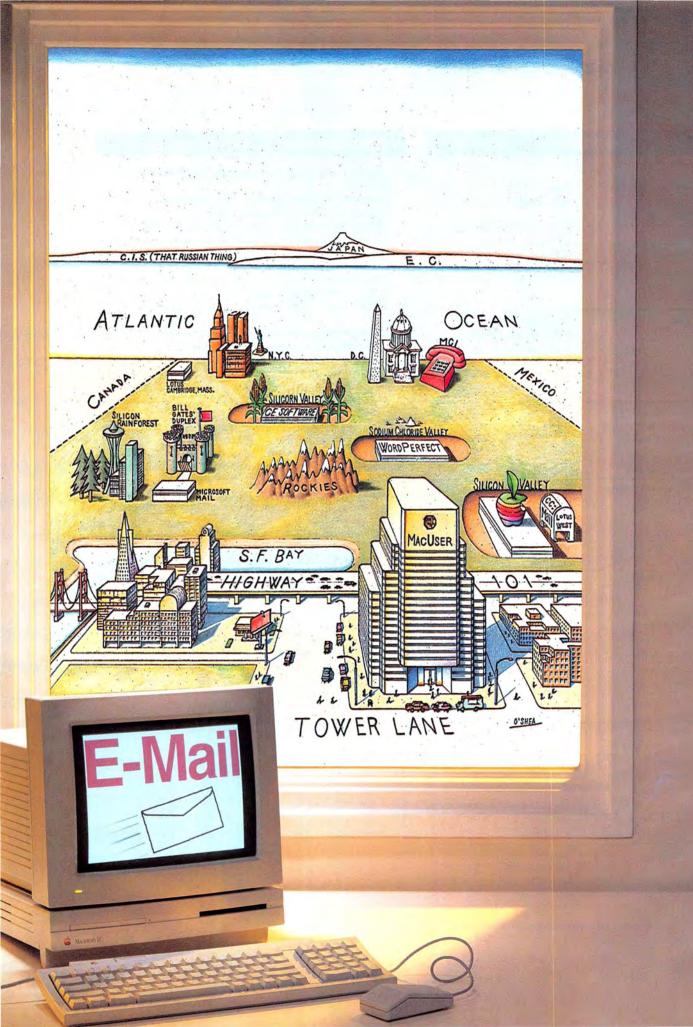
Case material — The primary material that is used for the drive's

Fuse — Is the drive internally and/or externally fused?

Fan — Does the drive contain a fan to keep it cool?

AC outlets — Does the drive have an AC outlet? If it does, for drives in this report, the outlet is switched, meaning that power goes to the outlet when you turn on the drive.

Turnaround time — The time within which the vendor guarantees delivery of a working drive if your drive fails.





The Global Network:

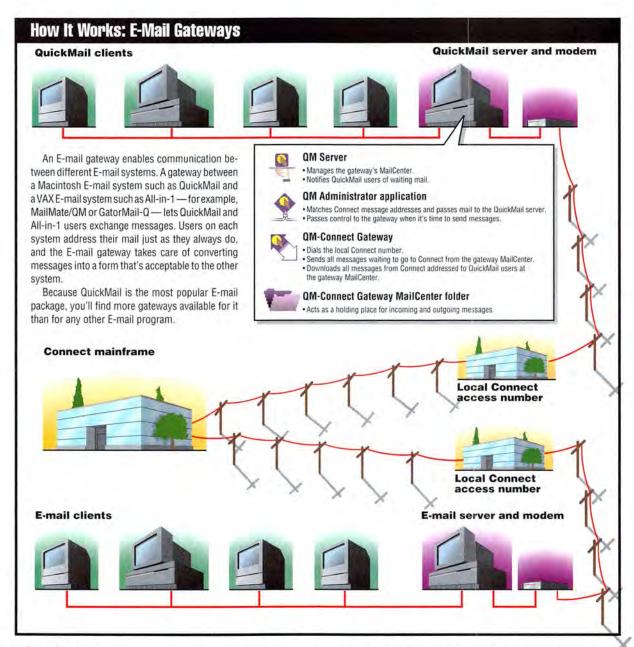
E-Mail Gateways

Put the ever-expanding E-mail universe into perspective. MacUser Labs looks at two gateways that let you tap in to the global network.

BY MICHAEL MILEY, KELLI WISETH, AND THE MACUSER LABS STAFF

unk mail takes on a whole new meaning when electronic mail's involved. A few days before last Christmas, ads for everything from diskette refrigerator magnets to canvas coverlettes for the Mac Classic drifted into a bunch of *MacUser* QuickMail boxes. Enclosed with the come-ons were images of the various doodads and order forms — returnable by E-mail, of course. Who were the high-tech marketeers, and how did their digital bulk-rate mail find its way to us?

As it turns out, the Case of the Mysterious E-Mail Messages is easy to solve. With E-mail gateways cropping up on networks from coast to coast, communicating with people on distant networks, even those using different E-mail systems, has gotten a lot easier. No more arcane command strings or cryptic addressing schemes that look like the comic-strip equivalent of [expletive deleted]: You know — something like @BOFFO.com! With the right E-mail gateway installed on your E-mail server, you can correspond around the globe as easily as you do around the office.



Easy Access

Many kinds of E-mail gateways are offered by E-mail-application vendors and third-party developers alike. Depending on the gateway, Mac-based E-mail users can easily and transparently send messages to users of many other kinds of E-mail systems. *Proprietary gateways* — more accurately called *bridges* — connect geographically dispersed yet identical E-mail systems. Take, for example, the case

of a clothing wholesaler using CE Software's QuickMail for its companywide E-mail system: The personnel department on Fifth Avenue can exchange mail with the payroll department on Park Avenue via CE Software's QM-QM Bridge (included in the QuickMail package).

E-mail gateways can also enable communication among dissimilar Email systems. If your company's accounting department has a VAX and uses Digital's All-In-One mail system but the legal department has Macs and uses Microsoft Mail, users on both systems can exchange mail easily and transparently if Alisa System's Mail-Mate/MM gateway is installed on the Microsoft Mail server (see the "Gateway Directory" sidebar).

Such cross-platform E-mail gateways are great for enhancing companywide communication. But what if you need to keep an independent satellite sales office in Saint George in the loop? And also swap mail with a consultant in Chinook? If each has a different E-mail system, you'll need a separate E-mail gateway for each of them. In such cases, it may be more cost-effective to use a public E-mail service, such as MCI Mail or AT&T Mail, or the mail service of one of the many information services -CompuServe, Prodigy, or Connect, for example — to send E-mail back and forth (see the "How It Works: E-Mail Gateways" sidebar). And with a gateway from your E-mail system to any of these services, you can send Email without getting involved with telecommunications programs, modems, and the like.

Forthis report, MacUser Labs looked at two gateways that let users of the two highest-rated Mac E-mail packages-Microsoft Mail and Quick Mail - send messages to subscribers to two popular public mail services. Solutions' CommGATE for MCI Mail (\$395/five users) lets Microsoft Mail users send messages to and receive them from MCI Mail subscribers. (At press time, the entire Solutions product line was for sale; contact Microsoft or MCI Mail for current purchasing information about CommGATE for MCI Mail.) QM-Connect Gateway (\$100), from CE Software, lets Quick-Mail users send messages to and receive them from Connect subscribers. Both packages streamline the process of communicating with subscribers to either of these services.

Why Buy a Gateway?

Public E-mail services, such as AT&T EasyLink and MCI Mail, provide electronic mail and related services — telex and fax, for example. Public information services, such as CompuServe, Connect, and GEnie, are primarily business reference services that also provide E-mail services for their customers. For a fee, both types of service allow you to exchange mail with other subscribers, using the host system.

Using these services, however,

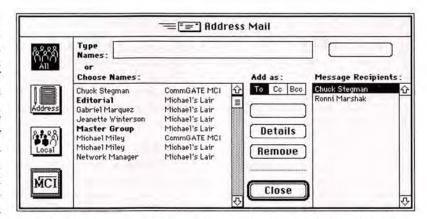


Figure 1: After the network administrator has set up MCI Mail recipient addresses on the server, they look just like any other Microsoft Mail address. Users can click on the MCI icon to get this dialog box for manually addressing a message to MCI subscribers not on the address list.

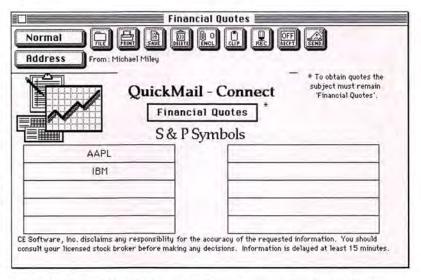


Figure 2: With QM-Connect Gateway and CE Software's Financial Quotes form, QuickMail users can check the price of stocks as reported over Standard & Poor's on-line financial-quotes service. The subject-field text — Financial Quotes — is used by the gateway to direct the message to the Connect host. The Standard & Poor's ticker-tape stock symbols — AAPL for Apple, for instance — are used to gather information for the stocks you specify.

typically requires that you use a terminal-emulation program to dial up the service via modem, log on to the host system, and send and receive mail. At first glance, this may not seem too cumbersome, but you'll want more ease of access than this if you're exchanging messages regularly via these public services. CE Software provides QM-Script Gateway, a unique alternative to terminal-emulation programs that enables QuickMail users to send

messages to a variety of text-based host services, free with the QuickMail server software. But if numerous QuickMail users want to communicate via the host system or if you want to use many other host-system features, QM-Script Gateway quickly becomes more trouble to administer than it's worth (see the "Scripts and Gateways" sidebar).

In contrast to QM-Script Gateway, an E-mail gateway to a public mail

E-Mail Gateways

service lets a large number of Mac E-mail users send messages to public-mail-service subscribers easily and transparently and typically supports more of the host service's features—the ability to send telexes or faxes or to retrieve stock quotes from a database, for example. Your choice of an E-mail gateway will be limited by the Mac E-mail system you're using and the commercial service through which you want to send messages. Not all host services offer the same sorts of features, so if you aren't yet a subscriber, be sure to shop carefully.

An E-mail gateway typically performs a dial-up on a scheduled basis and exchanges mail with the host service. The gateway software is installed on the mail-server Mac, which needs a modem, access to a phone line, and enough free space on its hard disk to store incoming and outgoing messages. Some gateways require a dedicated phone line; others don't.

CommGATE

The CommGATE gateway lets Microsoft Mail users easily send and receive messages through MCI Mail. CommGATE is easy to install. Network administrators copy the gateway software and associated files into the System Folder of the Mac that's acting as the Microsoft Mail server. The Gateway Installer program automatically installs the gateway on the server. The network administrator then logs on to the mail server, using the Microsoft Mail DA, and performs the rest of the setup steps: configuring the gateway, setting the connection times, creating user accounts, and creating a list of recipients. During setup, network administrators can also create a gateway-access server, which makes CommGATE accessible to users on other Microsoft Mail servers on the network.

You configure the gateway by entering the telecommunications-related

Gateway Directory

Gateways open up a wide world of communications to local-area-network E-mail users. Regardless of the many diverse types of E-mail systems your organization may have, chances are that there's a gateway available that will let your E-mail system send mail to users of a different E-mail system.

This directory contains a list of products that let you send mail from the five popular Mac store-and-forward E-mail systems reviewed last month (see "Stamp of Approval: Mac E-Mail Systems," March '92, page 158) to other types of mail systems - DOS-, UNIX-, VAX-, and mainframe-based - as well as to public mail and information services. (Note that gateways for cc:Mail and WordPerfect Office are designed for the DOS version of the software. If you want to tap in to any of the systems supported by these gateways, you'll have to start by tapping in to the DOS version of cc:Mail and you'll need the cc:Mail gateway to do this from your Mac network.)

Sometimes gateways offer support for more than one type of E-mail system or messaging protocol, so be sure to get more information before buying anything.

cc:Mail

*Cross-platform gateways cc:Mail. Inc.

A division of Lotus Development Corp. 2141 Landings Drive
Mountain View, CA 94043
(800) 448-2500
(415) 961-8800
cc:Mail Gateway, \$1,295
cc:Mail Link to 3Com Mail, \$695
cc:Mail Link to SMTP, \$2,995
cc:Mail Link to Soft*Switch, \$995
cc:Mail Link to UNIXMail/JUCP, \$695
cc:Mail Link to X.400,\$1,995

•Gateways to commercial E-mail services cc:Mail, Inc.

cc:Mail PROFSlink, \$2,200

A division of Lotus Development Corp. 2141 Landings Drive
Mountain View, CA 94043
(800) 448-2500
(415) 961-8800
cc:Mail Ezlink, \$695
cc:Mail Link to MCI Mail, \$1,295
cc:Mail Telelink, \$695

Touch Communications, Inc. 250 E. Hacienda Avenue Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 374-2500 Worldtalk 400 Gateway for cc:Mail, \$295 (gateway), \$295 (server), \$6,900/100 users

InBox Plus

*Cross-platform gateways StarNine Technologies, Inc. 2126 Sixth Street Berkeley, CA 94710 (510) 548-0391 Mail*Link Remote, \$195 and up Mail*Link SMTP 2.0, \$595

Touch Communications, Inc.
250 E. Hacienda Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 374-2500
Worldtalk 400 Gateway for Sitka InBox Plus,
\$295 (gateway), \$295 (server),
\$6,900/100 users

Microsoft Mail

•Cross-platform gateways Alisa Systems, Inc. 221 E. Walnut Street, Suite 230 Pasadena, CA 91101 (800) 628-3274 (818) 792-9474 MailMate/MM, \$450/10 users

Cayman Systems, Inc. 26 Landsdowne Street Cambridge, MA 02139 (800) 473-4776 (617) 494-1999 GatorMail-M. \$595/10 users

StarNine Technologies, Inc. 2126 Sixth Street Berkeley, CA 94710 (510) 548-0391 Mail*Link MHS for Microsoft Mail, \$395/10 users Mail*Link Remote, \$395/10 users Mail*Link SMTP, \$595/10 users settings for the modem- and phoneline connections in the Gateway Configurations dialog box — whether the telephone line is pulse or touch-tone, the local MCI Mail phone number, and which of the Mac's two serial ports (modem or printer) the modem is connected to. The times to send and receive MCI Mail can be specified in the Gateway Connect Times dialog box. Connection can be limited to certain times or can be initiated whenever there's mail headed for an MCI account. You cannot specify the number of redial attempts, however.

Next, the network administrator builds the list of Microsoft Mail users who will be sending and receiving MCI Mail messages through the gateway, by setting up gateway accounts. MCI offers two types of accounts: Individual and EMS (electronic-mail system). Individual accounts can have more than one user, but the default user designated by the system administrator during setup - receives all mail and must then forward it to the appropriate recipients. EMS accounts can also have any number of users, each of whom can send and receive messages. The network administrator must enter account-specific information — the MCI Mail account name, number, and password and whether it's an EMS or an Individual account - when defining a gateway account and is the only one who can add users to a specific

The network administrator must also build a list of CommGATE recipients, MCI Mail subscribers who will be receiving Microsoft Mail messages, specifying the delivery mode besides the name and the MCI ID. All types of MCI Mail delivery are supported — Individual, EMS, Paper, Telex, Fax, and X.400. Individual and EMS messages are delivered electronically, by Microsoft Mail; the other methods follow MCI routing according to information set up in the Define

*Gateways to commercial E-mail services

Microsoft Corp.

One Microsoft Way Redmond, WA 98052 (800) 426-9400 (206) 882-8080

Microsoft Mail Gateway to AppleLink, free (posted on AppleLink)

Solutions, Inc.

Contact Microsoft for information.

Microsoft Corp. One Microsoft Way Redmond, WA 98052 (800) 426-9400 (206) 882-8080

CommGATE (for MCI Mail), \$395/5 users GlobalGATE (for AT&T EasyLink), \$395/5 users

Touch Communications, Inc.

250 E. Hacienda Avenue Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 374-2500 Worldtalk 400 Gateway for Microsoft Mail, \$295 (gateway), \$295 (server), \$6,900/100 users

QuickMail

ss-platform gateways Alisa Systems, Inc. 221 E. Walnut Street, Suite 230 Pasadena, CA 91101 (800) 628-3274 (818) 792-9474

MailMate/QM, \$450/10 users

Cayman Systems, Inc.

26 Landsdowne Street Cambridge, MA 02139 (800) 473-4776 (617) 494-1999 GatorMail-Q, \$595/10 users

Information Electronics

520 W. Lake Road Hammondsport, NY 14840 (607) 868-3331 SMTP/QM, \$599 UMCP/QM, \$199

InterCon Systems Corp.

950 Herndon Parkway Herndon, VA 22070 (703) 709-9890 Dispatcher/SMTP, \$995

StarNine Technologies, Inc.

2126 Sixth Street Berkeley, CA 94710 (510) 548-0391 Mail*Link MHS. \$395/10 users Mail*Link QM-MS, \$2,995 Mail*Link Remote, \$395/10 users Mail*Link SMTP, \$595/10 users

Touch Communications, Inc. 250 E. Hacienda Avenue

Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 374-2500 Worldtalk 400 Gateway for QuickMail, \$295

(gateway), \$295 (server), \$6,900/100 users

·Gateways to commercial

CE Software, Inc.

1801 Industrial Circle P.O. Box 65580 West Des Moines, IA 50265 (800) 523-7638 (515) 224-1995

QM-Connect Gateway, \$100

GE Information Services

401 N. Washington Street Rockville, MD 20850 (800) 638-8730 (301) 340-4000 QuickMail LAN Connector, \$695

Solutions, Inc.

Contact CE Software for information. CE Software, Inc. 1801 Industrial Circle P.O. Box 65580 West Des Moines, IA 50265

(800) 523-7638 (515) 224-1995

CommGATE/QM (for QuickMail), \$395/5 users GlobalGate (for AT&T EasyLink), \$395/5 users

WordPerfect Office

WordPerfect Corp. 1555 N. Technology Way Orem, UT 84057 (801) 225-5000

WordPerfect Office Gateway to Retix OpenServer 400, \$995 WordPerfect Office MHS Gateway, \$495 WordPerfect Office PCGate, free with

WordPerfect Office

·Gateways to commercial

WordPerfect Corp. 1555 N. Technology Way Orem, UT 84057 (801) 225-5000

WordPerfect Office EasyLink Gateway, \$495 WordPerfect Office MCI Mail Gateway, \$495

E-Mail Gateways

Gateway Recipients dialog box for each recipient. Paper messages, for example, are routed to the MCI Mail service bureau whose ZIP code is nearest the recipient's — the full address is detailed in the Define Gateway Recipients dialog box—and delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

With the gateway installed and all users registered to mail accounts, sending mail to MCI Mail recipients is just like sending any other Microsoft Mail message. MCI Mail can receive only text messages; nontext Microsoft Mail messages — graphical forms — are incompatible with MCI Mail. Messages for Individual or EMS recipients can include enclosures, but

messages for recipients with Paper, Telex, and Fax addresses cannot. Recipients need something that can read enclosures, though, so before sending mail, make sure your recipient has CommGATE, DeskTop Express, or Lotus Express. You can manually address messages to recipients who aren't in your address list, using a one-time addressing form. You need to know the MCI Mail ID number and the correct name on the MCI Mail account.

Outgoing mail is sent to the server in the same way as any other Microsoft Mail message is. The Microsoft Mail server initiates the dial-up to MCI Mail either at the specified connection time or immediately if the "Connect immediately when there is outgoing mail" option was selected during configuration. If there's no outgoing mail, you can't force a connection—so if an out-of-state sales team's report is waiting for you in your MCI account, it'll just have to wait. When the connection is made, the mail server sends the mail; receives mail waiting for MCI accounts; and disconnects when it's finished, freeing the telephone line.

OM-Connect Gateway

CE Software's QM-Connect Gateway lets QuickMail users easily send and receive messages and files through the Connect Professional Information Service. Unlike CommGATE, OM-Connect Gateway requires a dedicated telephone line; like CommGATE, OM-Connect Gateway is easy to install on the QuickMail-server Mac. The network administrator simply copies the gateway software and related files into the appropriate folder on the server; creates a QM-Connect Gateway Mail-Center; and designates a custodian for the MailCenter, much as is the case in Microsoft Mail's default scheme for shared-account messaging. As with MCI Mail, Connect offers group accounts, but group-account users must complete the ATTN and Sentby lines for return mail for delivery to the right desktop.

The gateway must then be configured with dial-up times and telecommunications settings: the telephone number, the number of retries if connection fails, and the times or the number of messages that will initiate dial-up. The settings dialog box for OM-Connect Gateway offers a few more options than CommGATE's does. You can select connection times for CommGATE in two-hour intervals — 12 A.M. to 2 A.M., for example — whereas QM-Connect Gateway lets you set the start and stop times and adjust the time, in minutes, between dial-up attempts. If you want to initiate dial-up when a certain number of messages are in the MailCenter, you can designate two numbers, one for messages of any priority and the other

Scripts and Gateways

Of all the Mac E-mail vendors, CE Software alone offers a low-cost method (it's free) of communicating between an E-mail application and many of the public E-mail services. The QuickMail package includes QM-Script Gateway, which provides scripts that let QuickMail users exchange messages with any text-based information service, such as CompuServe, GEnie, and MCI Mail. You can also write your own scripts; information about how to do so is included in the manual for QuickMail administrators. Note that the host service must be text-based. which is why you can't write your own scripts for non-text-based on-line services - Connect or America Online, for example and you cannot send enclosures.

Technically speaking, QM-Script Gateway isn't a true gateway but simply a means of automating log-on to and the exchange of mail with the host system. Network administrators install QM-Script Gateway on the mail server and create a QM-Script Gateway MailCenter for every MCI Mailsubscriber account that will send mail through the script gateway. If six QuickMail users on a network have individual MCI Mail accounts, you'll need six QM-Script Gateway MailCenters. And the QuickMail server will log on, exchange mail, and log off six times — once for each MailCenter.

MCI and other on-line services offer group accounts in addition to individual accounts. MCI's group account, called EMS (electronic-mail system), lets multiple E-mail users send mail through MCI Mail by using

one account number. Multiple users can send mail through the QM-Script Gateway MailCenter if those users share the same EMS account number; the network administrator creates only one MailCenter for those users.

Scripts used with QM-Script Gateway are limited to E-mail exchange. If you want to make use of the host's other services — delivery via MCI Mail's Paper, Telex, or Fax service bureaus, for example — the network administrator must set up a separate script for each. QM-Script Gateway simply manages dialing up the host system, downloading the messages intended for the QuickMail network, and sending the messages addressed to subscribers to the host system.

A true gateway, on the other hand, provides E-mail support for more features of the host system, without the administrative hassles. At press time, Solutions' gateway between QuickMail and MCI Mail -CommGATE/QM - was in beta testing; it may be available by the time you read this. Unlike QM-Script Gateway, CommGATE/ QM processes all accounts - individual and EMS alike - through a single Mail-Center and supports all the delivery methods of the MCI Mail host, such as Paper. Telex, and Fax. QM-Script Gateway, with its scripts to different commercial mail services, is best suited to those who have only a few users and don't need any of the host's features other than mail exchange.

- Kelli Wiseth

for urgent messages only. Comm-GATE, on the other hand, lets you specify only a connection time to send or that dial-up should be initiated if you receive one message, regardless of priority.

The network administrator must create a list of account users and custodians and a list of recipients. Users can then select recipients from their address lists. Alternatively, they can use the Special Address feature to address mail manually if they know the recipient's account name and number as well as the name of the MailCenter and the zone in which the gateway is housed.

When the designated time or number of messages in the gateway MailCenter is reached, OM-Connect Gateway dials up the local Connect phone number and logs on to Connect. The network administrator can also initiate the connection manually through the QM Administrator software, so you can pick up mail that's waiting at the MCI Mail mainframe even if it's before your scheduled dialup time or when your QuickMail network has no outgoing messages. Mail is exchanged for the first account in the list, and then the gateway cycles through the remaining accounts, receiving and sending mail. Connect is finicky about account numbers: If any of them are invalid, the phone call is cut off and the other accounts in the queue will not exchange mail with Connect, Before the gateway will process mail for the remaining accounts, the network administrator must remove or correct the invalid account number. Furthermore, if the gateway is configured so that only account custodians can send mail, any mail sent by noncustodians will just sit in the MailCenter.

QuickMail users who are Connect subscribers can also incorporate QuickMail's Financial Quotes and Financial Report forms to receive stock quotations or commodity and mutual-fund financials through the gateway (see Figure 2). When combined with CE Software's QM-DataCollection Bridge (\$150), QM-Connect Gateway

Table 1	· Loo	1111	00
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	CommGATE	QM-Connect Gateway
ist price	\$395/5 users	\$100
deal users	Microsoft Mail users who	QuickMail users who want
	want to exchange mail	to exchange mail with
	with MCI Mail subscribers.	Connect subscribers.
Contact	Microsoft Corp.	CE Software, Inc.
	One Microsoft Way	1801 Industrial Circle
	Redmond, WA 98052	P.O. Box 65580
	(800) 426-9400	West Des Moines, IA 50265
	(206) 882-8080	(800) 523-7638
		(515) 224-1995

is even more useful. QuickMail users can collect data from Connect and then import that data into databases and spreadsheets, adding value to the financial data they've downloaded from the service.

The Gateway Advantage

Sending E-mail to folks on other E-mail systems can be done in a variety of ways, but one fairly effective method is to make use of the E-mail services of a commercial provider such as AT&T EasyLink, MCI Mail, CompuServe, Connect, or GEnie. And you can gain even more efficiency if you tie your E-mail system to the commercial service by means of an E-mail gateway. An E-mail gateway lets you send mail to

other E-mail users — even those on non-Mac systems — using the familiar front end of your Mac E-mail system. The commercial service provides a place to exchange messages.

Both CommGATE and QM-Connect Gateway can be straightforward, streamlined additions to your Microsoft Mail and QuickMail systems, respectively. Each gateway is seamlessly integrated with its server-based mail system and provides many useful business features.

San Francisco-based free-lance writer Michael Miley won the Computer Press Association's Best Software Review award for "Mail Call," his 1990 MacUser lab report on electronic mail. Kelli Wiseth is a MacUser senior editor.

The Bottom Line

With an E-mail gateway connecting your Mac E-mail system to a commercial E-mail service, everyone in the office can send mail to distant correspondents as easily as they do to the cubicle next door. And you save some money too: When you send mail via a host service, your connection is typically to a local or toll-free number.

Your choice of a gateway depends on several factors, including which Mac E-mail package your company has now and to which commercial mail or information service you subscribe. Before signing up, compare costs and features. And whichever service you choose, think about what type of accounts you want to set up — group or individual. Group accounts may offer a cost

savings, but individual accounts offer confidentiality and efficient routing to the right deskton

CE Software's **QM-Connect Gateway** (\$100) is easy to install and administer, and it lets QuickMail users send messages directly to users of the Connect Professional Information Service. CE Software provides forms that enable easy accessing of financial information through Connect.

Solution's **CommGATE** (\$395/five users) lets Microsoft Mail users connect to MCI Mail and provides full support for Paper, Telex, Fax, and X.400 messaging. CommGATE supports both EMS and Individual accounts and sends incoming messages directly to the addressee.



Full-Featured File Service: AppleShare Server 3.0

Apple's new file-server software adds features while keeping pace with its predecessor—but is it a good reason to buy a Quadra?



hen the Quadra 900 was introduced late last year, it was declared the perfect file server. Glowing advertisements touted room for multiple storage devices, NuBus slots galore, dual SCSI ports, and a power supply hefty enough to keep everything humming. There was, however, one catch — and it was a big one: The Quadra couldn't run AppleShare File Server 2.0.1, because that version could not run under System 7, and the Quadra does not run under System 6.



	(days	hr:min)	
Connected User	Connected for:		
Gemma	0:21	0:00	û
Jack	0:20	0:15	
Max	0:27	0:16	
Ona	0:15	0:13	П
Remote User	Activity:		Q
Remote User Maximum			·
		100%	·

Figure 1: Multiple applications can run simultaneously on an AppleShare Server 3.0 server. The network administrator can set the maximum amount of activity to be dedicated to file-server tasks.

Premature Evaluation

We were eager to test Apple's solution, AppleShare 3.0 File Server, but it wasn't shipping when the Quadra was introduced. The file-server software is one of the components of the Apple-Share Server 3.0 package. The package also contains AppleShare 3.0 Print Server, server-administration software. and workstation software for Mac as well as Apple II users. This review focuses only on the Mac software. Last fall, we tested a beta version of AppleShare 3.0 File Server to see if the new version significantly improved on the sometimes poky performance of its predecessor. However, when we ran the beta version through our basic set of file-server benchmark tests (see "A New Way to Share," December '91, page 199), we discovered that although AppleShare 3.0 File Server was long on new features, it was short on performance.

Performance problems are not surprising with beta software — the final tweaks given to an application right before it ships are often just what it needs to bring it up to speed. So, when we got a shipping copy of AppleShare Server 3.0, we put the file-server software through its paces in our Net-WorkShop, assuming that performance would improve over the beta version — and it did. We also discovered, however, that for small to medium-sized networks, the Quadra 900 may not be the superfast server platform we had hoped it would be.

Get With the System

One significant difference between AppleShare File Server 2.0.1 and AppleShare 3.0 File Server is that version 2.0.1 ran only under System 6 and version 3.0 requires System 7. (Note: Client Macs that access shared files on the server do not need to have System 7. They can continue to run under the same system and use the same AppleShare client software that they used when connected with servers running AppleShare File Server 2.0.1. However, Apple recommends that they use the AppleShare 3.0 workstation software that ships with the AppleShare Server 3.0 package.)

One major benefit of a System 7-based server is that it can run multiple applications simultaneously. Apple-Share File Server 2.0.1, on the other hand, was a dedicated server: Once it was installed, it could simultaneously run only one foreground application — such as the AppleShare Admin program *or* AppleShare Print Server

2.0.1 — and programs specifically written to run in the background on the server. If you wanted to run any other foreground software, the server had to be shut down first.

This isn't the case with AppleShare 3.0 File Server. It can be kept running while you run as many other programs as your Mac's RAM can support. The server needs at least 4 megabytes of RAM torun AppleShare 3.0 File Server and more in order to run multiple applications. Other convenient applications might include AppleShare 3.0 Print Server, an E-mail server, a multiuser database manager, networkadministration programs - any network-minded application that can run under System 7. The network administrator can specify the maximum amount of CPU horsepower that the server Mac will dedicate to file-server functions (see Figure 1).

New Versatility

In addition to its ability to run simultaneously with other applications, AppleShare Server 3.0 offers new flexibility in several other ways. Users won't notice much difference between accessing a 2.0.1 server and a 3.0 server, but network managers will be very grateful for some of the improvements.

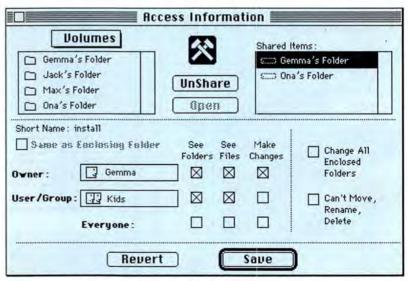


Figure 2: AppleShare 3.0 File Server, like System 7 file sharing, lets you share folders as server volumes and set shared-item privileges.

Mounting/Dismounting Volumes. With AppleShare File Server 2.0.1, only entire disk volumes could be shared as server volumes and the network administrator had to shut down the server to mount or dismount a volume. AppleShare 3.0 File Server, like System 7 file sharing, lets either entire disks or selected folders on a disk be shared as server volumes (see Figure 2). It's also possible to mount and dismount drives and eject removable media such as CD-ROMs while the server is running.

Access Privileges. AppleShare has three levels of access privileges — Owner, Group, and Everyone — that can be assigned to folders on shared volumes. AppleShare 3.0 File Server expands on the group privilege by letting a folder's owner assign a special set of privileges to one other user rather than to a group of users. This is handy if, for example, you want to set aside certain data that you plan to access remotely by dialing in to the network while you're on the road.

AppleShare 3.0 File Server adopts a convention used by System 7 file sharing, known as inherited privileges, when assigning privileges to newly created folders on a server volume. Have you ever had the following unpleasant experience with AppleShare File Server 2.0.1? You create a new folder on a server volume and drag it into someone else's drop folder. But that person can't open it, because it was created with your default privileges, which made the folder accessible only by you. And you can't access it either, because you don't have the privileges to open the recipient's folder.

Things are better now. AppleShare workstation software version 7.0, which ships with System 7, went partway: When you create a new folder with AppleShare workstation software 7.0, it inherits the privileges of the folder in which it's created. AppleShare 3.0 File Server goes the rest of the way: When you create a folder and move it to another folder on the server, it adopts the privileges of that folder. Only if



Figure 3: When upgrading to AppleShare 3.0 File Server from either AppleShare File Server 2.0.1 or System 7 file sharing, you can retain the information in your existing Users & Groups data file.

Server Name:	Sales Department Server
Admin Key:	••••••
Maximum Number of Co	nnections: 120
Minimum Number of Cha	racters in Password:
Number of Days until Pa	ssword Expires:
Number of Failed Login	Attempts Before Login Disabled: 3
Allow User to Save Pas	sword for Automatic Login
Enable Apple II Startup	Service

Figure 4: AppleShare 3.0 File Server allows as many as 120 simultaneous users and provides several new password-related security features.

you deliberately change its privileges does it retain explicit privileges when you move it around.

By the way, although the AppleShare 3.0 workstation software, which ships with AppleShare Server 3.0, may seem like a step—or four—backward from 7.0, the 3.0 version is actually newer than the 7.0 version, which ships with System 7. When installing AppleShare 3.0 File Server, network managers should make sure to upgrade users with the AppleShare Server 3.0 workstation software.

Upgrading. AppleShare Server 3.0

provides an easy means of upgrading from either AppleShare 2.0.1 or System 7 file sharing. If you have created Users & Groups privileges with either file service, the first time you run the AppleShare server-administration program, you'll see a dialog box that lets you choose whether you want to use the existing Users & Groups data file or create a new one (see Figure 3). Using the existing file can save a lot of time and effort. Note, however, that if you install AppleShare 3.0 File Server on a Macintosh that is already running System 7 file sharing, its file-sharing

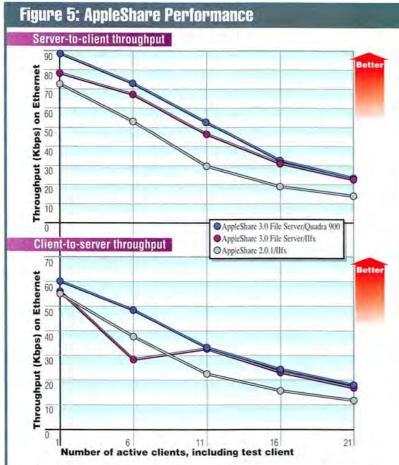


Figure 5: We connected 21 client Macs running System 7.0.1 to three server setups. On the server end, the three configurations were AppleShare File Server 2.0.1 on a Mac IIfx under System 6.0.7 (Apple-Share File Server 2.0.1 will not run under System 7) and AppleShare 3.0 File Server under System 7.0.1 on both a IIfx and a Quadra 900. Each client Mac and the Ilfx server used an Asanté 10BASE-T Ethernet card; the Quadra 900 was connected through its built-in Ethernet port. Clients were connected to the servers via an NRC MultiGate Intelligent 10BASE-T Hub. The hard drive we used on each server was a Wren Elite-1.

An increasing number of clients — first 5, then 10, then 15, then 20 — ran a script

that instructed them every ten seconds to write a file to the server and then delete it, which created a background load on the server. We then copied a folder containing two 512K files from an additional test client to the server and copied a folder of the same size from the server to the test client.

Overall, AppleShare 3.0 File Server performed slightly faster than AppleShare File Server 2.0.1. The Quadra 900 didn't significantly outperform the Mac Ilfx, however. On file reads (server-to-client) and file writes (client-to-server), AppleShare 3.0 File Server outperformed AppleShare File Server 2.0.1 by only a slight margin. Surprisingly, when running AppleShare 3.0 File Server, the Mac Ilfx kept up with the Quadra 900 at loads of as many as 21 users.

Users & Groups data file will be replaced with AppleShare 3.0 File Server's data file. System 7 file sharing will be disabled, and you'll need to use AppleShare 3.0 File Server's administration tools, rather than System

7 file-sharing control panels, to monitor and manage your shared data.

Restricting Access. Although AppleShare 3.0 File Server allows 120 users to be logged on to a server concurrently (AppleShare 2.0.1 allowed only 50, and System 7's file sharing has a maximum of 10), the network administrator can set this number lower to optimize performance.

Password protection in 3.0 also has more options than it did in 2.0.1. The administrator can set a minimum password length, can require users to change their password either the first time they log on or after a certain number of days, and can set a maximum allowable number of incorrect-password attempts (see Figure 4). An AppleShare Server 3.0 network administrator can disconnect one user without disrupting other users' server connections. It's also possible to lock individual files and folders, copy-protect files, and limit the number of users who can concurrently run an application.

User Messages. AppleShare 2.0.1 provided only one type of message: It warned users when a file server was about to shut down or, in extreme and unlucky cases, when it had already shut down. AppleShare Server 3.0 lets administrators send other types of messages. They can, for example, create a log-on message for all users to see when they log on to the server, and they can send messages to individual users or groups of users at any time. (Users must have AppleShare 3.0 workstation software installed on their machines to take advantage of this messaging capability.)

Although messaging is a useful feature, it does have one drawback: If your Mac automatically logs on to a server when you boot the Mac and the administrator has established a log-on message, your startup sequence will stop until you've clicked on the OK button when the log-on message appears. If you've gone out for a cup of coffee, expecting your Mac to have loaded all your extensions and be ready for use when you return, you'll be disappointed. Either Apple or some hacker should eliminate this irritant.

Getting into Print

There is nothing exciting about AppleShare 3.0 Print Server. It has the same features and operates in much the same way as its predecessor — except that version 3.0 runs under System 7. It also fixes a few bugs that plagued the earlier version.

AppleShare 3.0 Print Server can capture — spool jobs from — up to five printers. If you upgrade from AppleShare Print Server 2.0.1 to AppleShare 3.0 Print Server, the new server will maintain the same list of captured printers that you had set up in 2.0.1.

A note of caution: Network managers need to make sure that all users upgrade to version 7.0 or later of the LaserWriter driver, the one that comes with System 7. Even users who are still running System 6 must do so to use AppleShare 3.0 Print Server.

With previous versions of Apple-Share, File Server and Print Server software were sold separately. Apple-Share File Server 2.0.1 cost \$799, and Apple-Share Print Server 2.0.1 sold for \$299. Apple-Share Server 3.0 combines the two applications into a single package that retails for \$1,199. Apple also has a generous upgrade discount: The 3.0 package costs only \$199 if you own both File and Print Servers 2.0.1; it's \$299 if you own only the File Server software.

But How Fast Is It?

Features are nice, but even the fanciest file server is unacceptable if it grinds to a halt on a heavily used network. To test AppleShare 3.0 File Server's performance, we installed it on a Quadra 900. We also installed it and AppleShare File Server 2.0.1 on a Mac IIfx. (We couldn't install AppleShare File Server 2.0.1 on the Quadra, because it doesn't run under System 7, which the Quadra 900 requires to operate.)

Because an AppleShare file server is most commonly used as a repository for files that are shared by a workgroup, our performance tests focused on reading files from and writing them to the server. We connected 20 client Macs to each server and kept them logged on to the tested server at all times. An increasing number of clients — first 5, then 10, then 15, then 20 ran a custom script that instructed the clients every ten seconds to write a file to the server and then delete it, which created a background load on the server. With this background load running, a technician at an additional client node (the test client) copied a folder containing two 512K files from the test client to the server and then copied a



The Bottom Line

Apple's newest version, **AppleShare Server 3.0** (\$1,199), of its time-tested server software equals or exceeds the performance of its predecessor, Apple-Share File Server 2.0.1. Considering its wealth of new features, including the ability — the requirement, really — to run under System 7 and support for as many as 120 concurrent users, we highly recommend the new AppleShare to Mac users who are looking for a powerful, easy-to-maintain file and print server. At \$1,199, it's a good buy. If you already own version 2.0.1, the inexpensive upgrade is a real steal.

Don't rush out to buy a Quadra to run it on, though. Our tests showed that a Quadra 900 doesn't significantly outpace a Ilfx as a file server running Apple-Share 3.0 File Server. Unless you're a network manager who's running a server on a large network with a very heavy load, you probably won't need the extra power. Put your money into an ultrafast hard drive instead.

folder of the same size from the server to the test client.

Although AppleShare 3.0 File Server performed slightly faster than Apple-Share File Server 2.0.1, the Quadra 900 didn't significantly outperform the Mac IIfx — at the load levels we tested (see Figure 5). When the test client read a file from the server, the Quadra outpaced the IIfx with smaller client loads, but the two converged at greater loads. When the test client wrote to the server — except for an anomaly when a total of six clients were writing simultaneously — the Quadra 900 and IIfx ran essentially neck and neck.

Apple has run similar tests on AppleShare 3.0 File Server, with similar results. Its tests, which included greater client loads, found that the Quadra 900 could sustain its throughput rate, even with 90 clients, but that the IIfx's performance dropped gradually. In a forthcoming server face-off, we plan to put Apple's claims to the test. Stay tuned for the results.

Henry Bortman, *MacUser's* technical director, believes that sharing is a virtue.

Table 1: Feat	ures
	AppleShare Server 3.0
List price	\$1,199
Upgrade price	Upgrade from AppleShare File Server 2.0.1 and AppleShare Print Serve 2.0.1, \$199; upgrade from AppleShare File Server 2.0.1 alone, \$299
Pros	Expanded features include the ability to run multiple applications simultaneously, versatile volume- and folder-mounting options, enhanced password protection, and improved access-privilege management.
Cons	No significant increase in speed over previous version. Doesn't run under System 6.
Company	Apple Computer, Inc. 20525 Mariani Ave. Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 996-1010



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19" SuperMatch Color Display

SuperMac's most affordable display for professionals who demand fullpage resolution, impeccable color realism, and outstanding imagery. Its 1024 x 768 WYSIWYG resolution ensures that text and graphics appear the same on-screen as in print. And for color realism, SuperMac uses phosphors with an extended color range and tunes the display to a natural white point. Spectrum/8.24™ delivers 8-bit accelerated graphics on large-screen displays and 24-bit accelerated graphics for small-screen displays. Spectrum/8TM family provides 8-bit color for NuBus Macintosh systems. Manufacturer: SuperMac Spectrum/8.24 PDQ DRI0437 \$899. See line listing for further pricing. SuperMatch Color Display

KaleidoKubes

Challenging yet easy to play. KaleidoKubes appears simple at first, but as the game board grows, it becomes complex. Every game is different, because you actually create the game board as you play. ENT0417 \$19.

Bridge 6.0

Now you can play a rubber of Bridge 6.0 with the Mac's three players. Bridge 6.0 handles all the bookkeeping and tactfully informs you of any mistakes in bidding or play Even saves hands for replaying and analysis.

Publisher: Artworx ENT0303





Lotus 1-2-3 For Macintosh

1 At last, a 1-2-3 spreadsheet that is designed exclusively for the Macintosh computer. 1-2-3 for Macintosh takes full advantage of the rich graphical environment of Macintosh while delivering significant new spreadsheet features. And of course it's compatible with other new versions of 1-2-3 and Excel. A whole new kind of 1-2-3 created expressly for Macintosh. The result is a rich design that makes even the most complex spreadsheet tasks easy. 1-2-3 for Macintosh sets a new standard for what a Macintosh spreadsheet should be. System requirements, any Macintosh with a hard disk. 2MB RAM under System 6 or later. 3 MB RAM under 7. Publisher: Lotus Development BUS0188



JAG

O JAG works in the background, removing jagged edges from PICT files automatically, producing pixel perfect 8-bit and 24bit still images and animations. Works with images created in color paint applications and with scanned images. With edge-

detection scheme, JAG produces sharp, clear images of superior quality to those produced by edge-blurring filters. When working with 3D rendering software, JAG saves time and production costs by letting you work with antialiasing turned off, while JAG does the post production job.

Publisher: Ray Dream GRA0291



WristSaver/ WristSaver MousePad

The WristSaver cradles your wrist with a contoured neoprene rubber pad and a nylon covering. It's ergonomically designed to

support your wrist at the proper angle to help avoid the pain associated with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. The WristSaver MousePad provides a comfortable rest for your wrist, plus a conventional mouse pad. Simple finger movements replace sliding the entire arm or hand.

Manufacturer: LB Innovators

WristSaverMousePad ACC0635 \$

WristSaver ACC0560 \$15. Rundle RND0033

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Canvas 3.0

@ Canvas 3.0 is fast, powerful, easy to learn and provides all the tools you'll need to create and print professional quality color or monochrome graphics. Use in a wide range of design projects including desktop publishing, technical illustration, design graphics,



architectural rendering, engineering drawing, presentations, multimedia and general business graphics. Canvas 3.0 offers unparalleled productivity. Create illustrations from scratch with our new freehand tool, or scan existing artwork and let Canvas auto trace its outlines for you. System 7 Savvy! 1991 MacUser

Publisher: Deneba Software

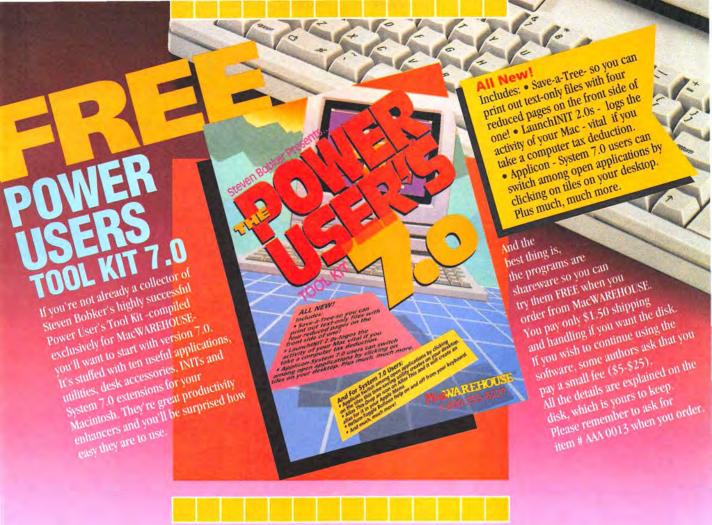




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White Knight V.11

The perfect low-cost solution to almost any Mac telecommunicator's needs. Offers the kind of power associated with products costing hundreds of dollars more,



but is easier to learn and more flexible. 270+ page user manual is geared to all levels of experience. Winner of 11 awards including MacWorld's World Class Software Award 1987-1991. Publisher: FreeSoft COM0060

Business Sense 1.5 or Business Plan Toolkit 4.0

Business Sense tracks up to 8,000 customer accounts, 8,000 vendors and can handle amounts up to \$1 trillion. The General Ledger manages multiple, but relate, companies, five bank accounts, 99 departments, automates recurring entries, and distributes data automatically on posting. Other modules include

Accounts Payable, Payroll, Budgeting and more.

Publisher: Wyoming Software Corporation
Business Plan Toolkit 4.0 FIN0116 \$99 Business Sense 1.5

FIN0013

Word Search Deluxe

Perfect for newsletters, classrooms, and puzzle enthusiasts everywhere. Fun to create. Fun to play. Improve your vocabulary in any subject. Use as stand alone application to create, play and print

word search puzzles or use in combination with word processing, paint and page layout programs for more decorative results. Supports color and digitized sounds.

Publisher: Nordic Software EDU0276

Puzzle Master

O Solve crossword puzzles, or create your own. Includes 250 of The New York Times® classic puzzles, 200 daily puzzles and 50 Sunday puzzles. Built-in timer. ENT0383 \$29.

A new educational/reference program for current and prospective dog owners. Includes VGA pictures of most popular breads, health care, and nutrition. ENT0384 \$27.

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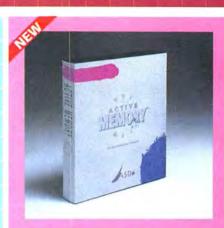
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Smartcom II Mac 3.3

O Smartcom II for the Macintosh is praised by software reviewers and users as the most reliable, easiest to use Mac communications software available. Smartcom II takes full advantage of the power and unique graphics capabilities of all Macintosh computers and unique graphics capabilities of all Macinitosis computers including special support for Sistem 7, provides support for all popular modems, and offers a simple, but powerful, interface to the advanced features of Hayes SmartmodemTM and V-series® products, including ULTRATM 96 and ULTRATM 144. It supports TTY, VTTM 52/100/102, ANSI, PrestelTM, and Show Controls terminal emulations and Autotype Protocol, XModen (XModem Sandard, XModem CRC, XModem 18), YModem, YModem-G, ZModem, Kermit™, CompuServe™ B Plus file transfer protocols. Publisher: Hayes COM0015



Active Memory 2.0

Active Memory is a continuously running personal organizer for Macintosh computers enabling you to manage personal information as well as collaborate in real time with other users over a LAN and through remote Appletalk. Active Memory functions in the background of your Macintosh as a personal database and can be configured to manage your priorities and personal information the way you want it. You can teach Active Memory to automatically prioritize information and carry over unfinished tasks to the following day. When running Active Memory under System 7, you can also publish and subscribe to other applications to get immediate dynamic information. Publisher: ASD Software BUS0207



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tasks, appointments and priorities. First Things First is always instantly available by clicking on a revolutionary Clock-Icon that floats on top of any active window or

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Publisher: Visionary Software RUS0190



Smart Alarms 3.07 with Appointment Diary 3.1

10 Let New Smart Alarms 3.07 take care of your daily schedule. Just enter your appointments into the Diary and Smart Alarms will remind you of your important appointments. New features include, a persistent reminder feature,

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Atlanis & Discovery.

Publisher: JAM Software USA Single User DAC0032



2

O DayMaker offers you a complete solution for personal organization. It is the first Macintosh product to combine scheduling, appointments, to-do lists, calendars, alarms, Gantt charts, free form addresses, phone numbers, categorization, and full printing to personal organizers; all in one fast, elegant, and easy-to-use package. View or print all your important information according to your own categories. View calendars containing only items relating to a particular project, person, or switch between categories, instantly. Keep track of what's been done and what hasn't with "tickler" reminders and alarms. A must for Macintosh PowerBook users. Publisher: Pastel Development BUS0199



Versa Term Pro 3.6 or Versa Term 4.6

Versa Term Pro 3.6 and Versa Term 4.6 emulate the following



terminals: DEC VT220 and VT100, DG D210 and D211, plus Tektronix 4014 and (with Pro only) Tektronix 4105. They Support the Apple Comm Toolbox, and come with a complete set of tools and INITs: MacTCP (TCP/IP), Telnet and FTP tools, LAT (DEC VMS Ethernet) ADSP

(Apple Talk Data Stream Protocol), plus serial and modem tools. File transfer capability includes: FTP (Client and Server), XModem, YModem, and Kermit. Publisher: Synergy Software

Versa Term 4.6 COM0002 \$90. Versa Term Pro 3.6 COM0003



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Publisher: Velocity Development™ ENT0409

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Touch BASE

Does not require PostScript. Cable is included. Publisher: Insight Development 1710098



HayesConnect™ Version 3.0

Turn your modems, printers, plotters, and other serial devices into shared resources on your AppleTalk network. HayesConnect is the software solution that expands the usefulness of your peripherals by enabling you to share a wide variety of serial devices connected to Macintosh® computers on any AppleTalk® network. Sharing resources on your network gives you greater versatility, convenience, and cost control. For example, HayesConnect allows you to share the use of high-sped modems among many network users. No need to buy modems and phone lines for everyone; simply use HayesConnect to pool a few modems for the use of everyone in your group. Manufacturer: Hayes COM0095

TouchBASE 2.0

TouchBASE 2.0 contains over 20 new features. Stores information about personal and business contacts and automatically capitalizes words and formats phone numbers TouchBASE has fields for storing alternative phone numbers, and you can customize the fields. It searches through a single field, or combination, using convenient functions such as "Starts With,"

"Exact Match" and "Contains," plus "And" and "Or" functions. It prints envelopes and mailing labels, including postal bar codes. Dials the phone, exchanges data with other applications, and shares data over a network. Publisher: After Hours Software

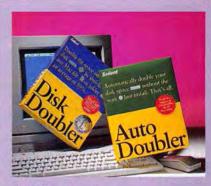


O Create job-winning résumés quickly with RésumExpert. Ten editions available by profession. Each edition features 40+ professionally written and fully-formatted Microsoft Word résumé

templates. Simple to use just select a template and substitute your personal information. MacUser 10/ 89 awarded RésumExpert 4 mice and raved about its "excellent" manual and writing tips. Also rated a top 200 software program by MacUser 12/89. Requires MS Word. System 7 compatible

Publisher: A Lasting Impression BUS0087





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• AutoDoubler is the easiest way to increase your hard disk capacity. It works in the background to automatically keep your hard disk compressed. It's lightning quick and completely transparent, so it won't interrupt your work. In fact, AutoDoubler's new patent-pending technique lets your Macintosh use files and applications while they are still compressed! It's 100% compatible with all app desk accessories, and system extensions. UTI0254 \$49.

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O DiskDoubler gives you total control of file compressionarchiving for modem transfer, compressed backups, self-expanding files, and fast copying of files. AutoDoubler and DiskDoubler combined give you the ultimate in speed, convenience, and control. System 7 Savvy! Publisher: Salient UTIO179

549



FileGuard 2.7

"It's sleek, fast, and safe. I highly recommend it." MacUser April 1991. Protect your Hard Drives and Partitions from unauthorized access (including security bypass with a system diskette), copying and erasure; Applications and File/Folders (including system folder) from unauthorized access, deletion, and/or illegal copying; Desktop, (including system folder) from alterations by unauthorized user, Keep an eye on System Usage with the system users log which continuously tracks user/group System 7 compatible. Publisher: ASD Software Office 5-Pack UTI0130 \$489.

Office 10-Pack UTI0131 \$799. Single UTI0135

Design Your Own Home:



O Design Your Own Home: Architecture, Interiors, or Landscane, Create floor plans and building plans with structural details. Do individual room plans and kitchen/bath design. Then complete your dream house with graphic landscape plans. Interiors and Landscape programs generate 4 side views

from top-view perspective. Sample plans included. Publisher: Abracadata



Accountant, Inc. 3.0

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1991 MacUser Editor's Choice Award. Publisher: SoftSync, Inc. FIN0048



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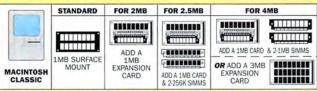
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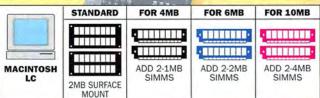
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The Mac Classic comes with a standard 1MB of memory, which is surface mounted (soldered) to the motherboard. Additional memory for your Mac Classic is provided by an Expansion Board, which slides into a slot on the Classic's motherboard. The Expansion Board can be purchased with 1MB of memory (for a total of 2MB), and then two 1MB SIMMs can be added to the Expansion Board later, for a total of 4MB. Or, you can install a 3MB Expansion Board, which brings your Mac Classic up to its full 4MB. CHP0050 1MB Expansion Board...\$79 CHP0051 3MB Expansion Board...\$179.

	STANDARD	FOR 2MB	FOR 2.5MB	FOR 4MB
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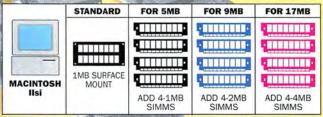
The Mac Plus and Mac SE have four available slots on the motherboard, which originally contain four 256K SIMMs modules — totalling I megabyte (1MB) of memory. To upgrade, you can replace each 256K module with a IMB module, but you must do this in pairs. Replace two 256K modules and you will have a total of 2.5MB of modules, the two new IMB modules plus the original two 256K modules.) Replace all four modules and you'll have 4MB. (You should save the 256K modules for fater use if you want to pass your Mac on to someone else.)



The Mac SE/30, II, IIx, IIcx, and IIci each come with a total of eight slots. The standard configuration has four 256K SIMMs modules, or a total of 1 MB. Here, memory must be upgraded in multiples of four. This allows for expansion from 1MB to 4, 5 or 8MB on the II and IIx, and up to 32MB on the SE/30, IIcx and IIci, depending on whether you are using 1MB, 2MB or 4MB SIMMs. If you are upgrading a Mac IIci, you must use SIMMs rated at 80ns or faster.

-	STANDARD	FOR 4MB	FOR 5MB	FOR 8MB	FOR 9MB	FOR 16MB	FOR 32MB
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The Mac Usi comes with a standard LMB of memory, which is surface mounted (soldered) to the anotherboard. Four slots are available for additional memory, and you must upgrade your Mac Usi in multiples of four. The Mac Usi is expandable to 5, 9 or 17MB, depending on whether you are using 1, 2 or 4MB SIMMs, and the SIMMs modules must be rated at 100ns or faster.



The Mac LC comes with a standard 2MB of memory, surface mounted (soldered) to the motherboard, with two slots available for additional memory. The Mac LC can be upgraded to 4, 6, or 10 MB, depending on whether you are installing 1, 2 or 4MB SIMMs.

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DESKTOP PUBLISHING

ColorStudio and ImageStudio are the latest Letraset products to take a walk. As of February 15, Fractal Design ([408] 655-8800) — the original developer of both programs and of the Eddy Award-winning Painter — has acquired North American rights to these two products. (Letraset will continue to market them in Europe.) Fractal has lowered the price of ColorStudio to \$795 and hints that a Windows version may be on the horizon.

By Aileen Abernathy

R.I.P.: The shakeout in the page-layout market continues, with Ventura Publisher the latest apparent victim. Ventura Software has laid off the entire Mac development team, part of an overall cut of 2,500 people by parent company Xerox. The year-old Mac product has sold abysmally, and version 3.2 (the System 7 upgrade) could be the last. Work has also been halted



on other platforms (GEM, OS/2, and UNIX), as Ventura places all of its eggs—and the company's future—in the Windows basket. Also say goodbye to DesignStudio—the name, not the product. Manhattan Graphics ([800] 572-6533) has introduced Ready,Set,Go! 5.0, which is basically a renamed DesignStudio with support for QuickDraw printers, full compatibility with TrueType and System 7, and new documentation. The RSG 5.0 package, which includes the Separator annex and ReadyScript (formerly DesignScript), has an attractive price, \$395. Upgrade costs range from \$29.95 for DesignStudio 2.0 owners to \$89.95 for RSG 1.0 pioneers. (This offer is available only to U.S. users; former owner Letraset retains marketing rights in Canada and Europe.)

Oneupmanship: 1991 Eddy Award winner FontStudio 2.0 may have taken some wind out of Fontographer's sales, but Altsys ([214] 680-2060) appears to



thrive on competition. Its version 3.5 upgrade to Fontographer adds a host of impressive features to the venerable font-creation program: font interpolation, free-hand-drawing and calligraphy tools (with support for Wacom's and Kurta's pressure-sensitive digitizing tablets), a Change Weight feature, a hinting editor, and the ability to generate Multiple Master fonts. \$495; upgrade, \$40. Altsys has also released version 2.0 of EPS

Exchange, its add-on utility for FreeHand. The original release exported Free-Hand files as fully editable Illustrator images; the new version reverses the flow, enabling FreeHand users to open Illustrator 88 and 3.0 files (left). \$149; upgrade, free.

On display: The Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune are two of the many newspapers that use Multi-Ad Creator to produce display ads on the Mac. This slick single-page layout program has graphics features and color-separation capabilities superior to those of some mainstream layout programs. It's relatively easy to use — instant starbursts, anyone? — and provides numerous text effects,

borders, and other design elements. Give it the ad elements, and Multi-Ad Creator will even generate suggested layouts for you. In version 3.0, publisher Multi-Ad Services ([309] 692-1530) adds niceties such as object-level trapping, Pantone colors, TIFF masking, and EPS and DCS output. \$895.



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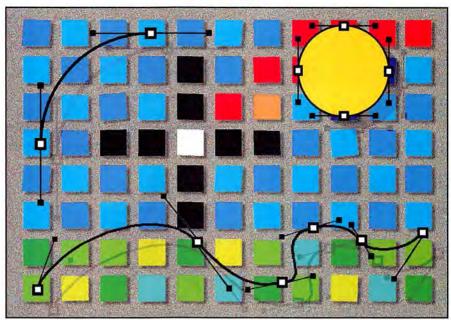
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GRAPHICS

Graphics Glossary

Confused by the alphabet soup of graphics file formats? This guide spells out the differences and shows you how to distinguish between bit-mapped and object-oriented graphics.

By Salvatore Parascandolo and Aileen Abernathy



n the good old days of Mac graphics (say, 1984), life was simple. There were two programs — one for drawing (MacDraw) and one for painting (MacPaint). Each was black-and-white only, and each had a single file format associated with it — Paint for you-know-what and PICT for MacDraw. Then color came to the Mac, along with scanned images; PostScript illustrations; and most recently, animation. Each advance brought with it a new genre of applications as well as the need for new file formats to store and transport the increasingly sophisticated images.

Today, the Mac's graphics formats have an alphabet soup of names such as TIFF, EPS, PICS, and DCS. Many of these formats have subdivisions of their own — plain old PICT has a colorful sibling, PICT2, and the increasing prevalence of 24-bit color has spawned 24-bit PICT2, color TIFF, and binary EPS. As if that weren't enough, many programs also have proprietary formats that are rarely recognized by other applications.

To make sense of the mélange of Mac graphics, you must first understand the difference between a file format — such as PICT and EPS — and the types of graphics — bitmapped and object-oriented—that applications can produce. A *file format* is the structure of the data used to record an image onto a disk. The same data structure can be used to record more than one type of graphic, and a given type of

graphic can be stored in several data structures. For instance, the PICT file format can contain both bit-mapped and object-oriented graphics, and a bit-mapped image can be stored in a Paint, PICT, TIFF, or EPS format. Each combination of file format and graphic type has advantages and trade-offs.

Bit-Mapped Images

One of the two basic types of graphics is the bit map. Its real-world analog is a painting or, more appropriately, a mosaic made from tiny colored tiles. In a bit-mapped image, the tiles are called picture elements, or pixels. Lines are depicted as rows of adjoining pixels, and all shapes are outlined and filled with pixels (see Figure 1). As in a real mosaic, you make changes to a bit-mapped image by replacing tiles of one color with tiles of another. You can achieve the illusion of unavailable colors or grays by dithering, or mixing, tiles of the available colors or gray shades.

Black-and-white bit maps need only 1 data bit to describe each pixel. Gray-scale and color images created by painting programs (such as PixelPaint, Studio/8, and SuperPaint) or by image-editing applications (such as Color-Studio, Digital Darkroom, and Photoshop) look and act essentially like bit maps. However, a single data bit per pixel doesn't provide enough information to specify a particular color or shade of gray. Images containing 256 grays or

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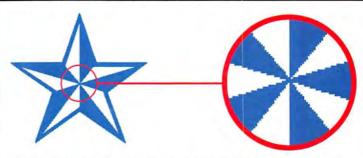
colors require 8 bits per pixel, and photographic-quality, full-color images require as many as 24 bits per pixel to specify 1 of 16.8 million values. Thus, depending partly on their resolution, color and gray-scale files can occupy a vast amount of disk space.

The mosaic nature of a bit map can produce undesirable results when an area of the image is moved, enlarged, or rotated. To move part of a bit map, you must literally rip tiles from the surface and put

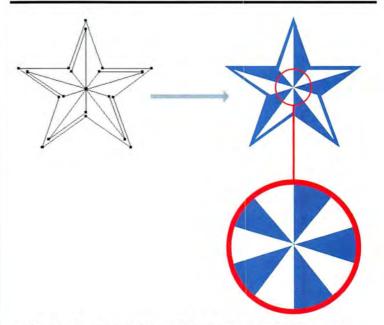
them somewhere else, leaving a hole (no tiles) behind. Wherever you move the image segment, it replaces the tiles that were there, permanently erasing the overlaid portion.

If you enlarge a bit-mapped graphic, it will look as though you've replaced the small mosaic tiles that originally formed the image with larger tiles, and the result will have a blocky and jagged appearance. If you shrink the bit map in a painting or image-editing program, its component

Figure 1: Bit Maps Versus Objects



Bit-mapped graphic: This TIFF image is a mosaic of individual pixels in fixed locations. If it's enlarged, the pixels will seem to grow and accentuate the jaggedness. When printed, the image retains its jagged appearance, regardless of the printer's resolution.



Object-oriented graphic: This EPS illustration is composed of mathematically described paths and drawing instructions (left). Its components can be rendered smoothly at any size and orientation, and the image prints smoothly at the highest resolution available.



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tiles will remain the same size, but some of them will literally be squeezed out of the picture. Restoring a shrunken image to its original size (not by using the Undo command but by stretching it) doesn't restore the lost tiles. Instead, the remaining tiles grow to fill the larger area and the image becomes jagged and distorted. When you rotate a bit map in a bit-mapbased program such as PixelPaint Professional, the tiles that compose the image are rearranged so the image looks rotated. Unless it's done in 90-degree steps, however, rotation generally wreaks havoc on the image, producing shattered patterns and crumbly lines.

When you print a bit map, the printer reproduces the image exactly as it is stored, in its tiled form. The effective resolution of the printed image is directly dependent on that of the bit map. Coarse bit maps print coarsely; fine bit maps print finely. A Paint image saved at 72 dpi (dots — or pixels — per inch) will be very rough around the edges, compared with a 300-dpi Photoshop graphic. A given Paint image looks the same no matter what it's printed on, a laser printer or an imagesetter.

Although bit maps have inherent limitations, they're still the perfect medium for many needs. When you work with pixels, you can achieve artistic effects that resemble those of traditional painting. Photo-retouching programs perform their magic on bit maps, which are the default graphic type for scanned images.

Object-Oriented Art

Object-oriented graphics - typically produced by drawing programs such as Canvas, MacDraw, and Illustrator - avoid the limitations of bit maps in several ways. First and foremost, the images are composed of mathematically described objects and paths, sometimes called vectors (see Figure 1). Object-oriented applications don't store your strokes as a collection of tiles on a surface but rather as a list of drawing instructions compiled from your menu choices and mouse movements. Everything you draw, move, or change updates an internal database that lets the program keep precise track of each item on the drawing surface.

You can enlarge, reduce, rotate, reshape, and refill objects, and the program redraws them with no loss of quality. Moreover, objects can be managed individually as if each item were drawn on a separate, transparent sheet. They can be freely moved over a document's surface and can be stacked and partially hidden by other objects without being permanently erased.

The advantages of object-oriented art extend to the printing phase as well. Instead of dictating to the printer where each image spot should be, the program mathematically describes the shape of the object and lets the printer render the image at the highest resolution possible. Thus, unlike bit-mapped images, object-oriented graphics are resolution-independent. An object-oriented image printed on a 2,540-dpi imagesetter looks far superior to the same image printed on a 300-dpi laser printer.

Object-oriented graphics are excellent choices for technical illustrations, especially highly detailed work, in which any item may be subject to changes in color, shape, position, or orientation. Object-oriented images are also good choices when the size of the finished work is unknown or variable, because they scale, rotate, and print without unpleasant side effects.

Now that we've distinguished the two basic types of Mac graphics, let's look at the various file formats in which they can be stored.

Paint

Simple Bit Maps

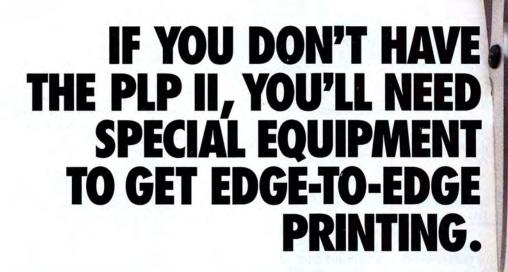
Named after its first graphics program, the Mac's most basic format holds only black-and-white bit maps, at 72 dpi. Moreover, the Paint format (file type PNTG) also limits document dimensions to exactly 8 x 10 inches in a vertical orientation.

MacPaint, of course, saves in this format, but other applications — Canvas, DeskPaint, PixelPaint, and SuperPaint, to name a few — can optionally save their images as Paint files. Graphics saved in Paint format are stripped of most attributes, including high resolution, object-oriented flexibility, gray-scale values, and color. And if the original graphic is wider than 8 inches, its right side is lopped off.

PICT

Limited-Color Bit Maps and Objects

PICT (not an acronym) is the oldest generic file format on the Mac. It can hold any mixture of bit maps and resolutionindependent objects, which are encoded in QuickDraw, the Mac's native graphics language. PICT objects and bit maps can be any of eight colors: white, black, cyan, magenta, yellow, red, green, or blue. The



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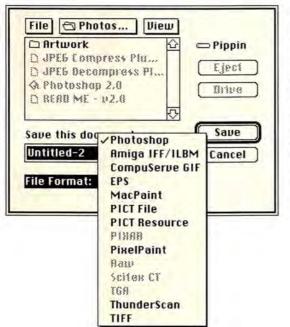


Figure 2: Photoshop can import and export graphics in 14 file formats. This flexibility can be very handy if you need to convert a graphic from one file format to another — for example, if you want to convert a CompuServe GIF file into PICT format so that you can use it in Microsoft Word.

PICT format can hold bit maps with resolutions greater than 72 dpi, but some applications may not support higher resolutions, so they convert high-resolution bit maps back to 72 dpi. The PICT format also allows applications to add comments about image components to the file data. The comments add important details such as curve-smoothing information or Post-Script descriptions of the PICT image. If an importing application can't interpret the comments, they will be ignored and therefore not implemented.

PICT is suitable for medium-quality line art and low-resolution bit maps (which can reside in the same file) with a very limited color range. But there's no way to tell whether a PICT file contains bit maps, objects, or both until you open it. When graphics are cut or copied to the Clipboard for pasting into another application, they are normally converted to PICT format.

PICT2

Full-Color Bit Maps and Objects

PICT2, an extension of the PICT format, has two subtypes: a 16.8-million-color version, commonly called 24-bit PICT2, and the more prevalent 8-bit PICT2, which holds only 256 colors. Like PICT, the PICT2 format sets no limit on the resolution of bit maps except that imposed by the creating application. Several applications, including Studio/8 and SuperPaint, use PICT2 as their default

Save format. Other applications, such as PixelPaint, offer a PICT Save option, but the images are actually saved as PICT2 files.

With 8-bit PICT2, a custom 256-color palette can be saved along with the image data, enabling any PICT2-wise application to re-create the original screen appearance. Unfortunately, some programs don't save the custom palette when exporting an image and some importing applications ignore the custom palette. In these cases, when the image is opened by the new application, its colors will be determined by the current color palette, which can wreak color-shift havoc. Color shifts may also occur when a chunk of 8bit PICT2 from one document is pasted into another 8-bit PICT2 document. If the two images have different palettes, the pasted piece will change color.

PICT2 is an excellent choice for presentation and animation work in which the final image is viewed on-screen or on a slide. It's not the best format for use in desktop publishing, however, because PICT2 is poorly supported by page-layout programs such as PageMaker and QuarkXPress.

TIFF

Versatile Bit Maps

Tag Image File Format is the most flexible scheme for storing bit-mapped images that have various resolutions, numbers of grays, and colors. However, it cannot store object-oriented images. TIFF was created specifically for the storage of gray-scale data, and it's the standard format for scanned images such as photographs. It's also the most reliable format for exporting gray-scale and color images to other programs, ensuring that image tones and resolution are faithfully interpreted by the importing application. TIFF has three subtypes, which are distinguished by the number of colors or gray shades they contain:

• Monochrome TIFF stores only 1-bit images, but the black and white pixels can be dithered in a variety of patterns to simulate grays quite accurately. On the other hand, dithered patterns limit the degree to which you can edit and scale an image.

• Gray-scale TIFF holds 256 grays. It's the best choice for graphics used in page layouts, because most page-design programs can adjust the contrast and brightness of a gray-scale TIFF image.

• Color TIFF can hold as many as 16.8 million colors. It's the preferred format for images that will be color-separated.

Because TIFF files can be quite large, many programs now offer schemes for compressing them. Unfortunately, applications may use different names for the same compression formats, thus confusing users, and a few programs save the compressed files in subformats that aren't recognized by other programs. TIFF 4.0 is the most widely recognized compressed format. The newer TIFF 5.0 format offers additional capabilities such as variable compression schemes, but older applications may not recognize the files.

RIFF

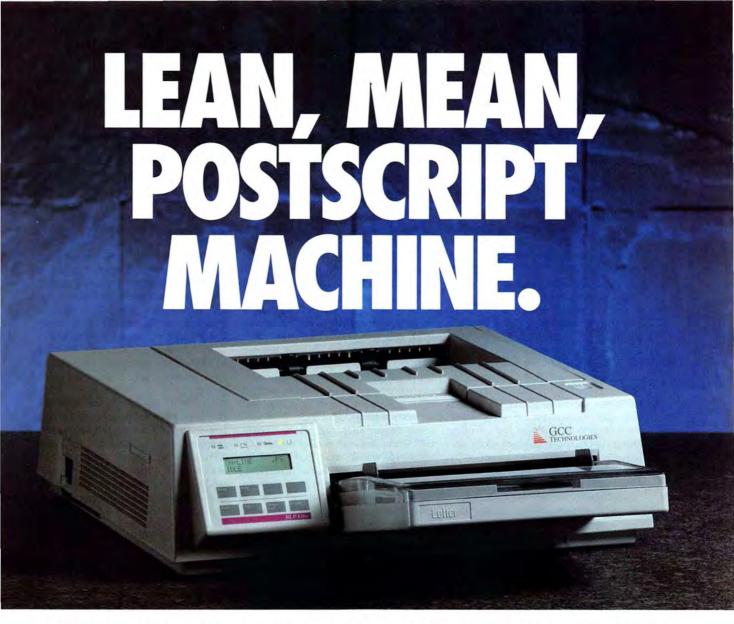
Compressed Bit Maps

Raster Image File Format is not a variation of TIFF. Instead, it's a compressed-bit-map format used by ColorStudio, ImageStudio, and Painter (all of which are from the same developer). RIFF is recognized by several other applications such as QuarkXPress, DesignStudio, and Ready,Set,Go! but is not supported by such heavyweights as PageMaker and Photoshop.

GIF

CompuServe Bit Maps

CompuServe created the Graphics Interchange Format to help users minimize file-transfer times when transmitting bitmapped images to and from the on-line



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service. GIF incorporates LZW compression, but images are limited to 8 bits (256 colors) and specific dimensions (such as 640 x 480 pixels). GIF is being supported by a growing number of Mac and PC graphics applications, such as Photoshop (see Figure 2).

JPEG

Highly Compressed Bit Maps

Purely speaking, Joint Photographic Experts Group isn't a format. It's a sophisticated technique for reducing the amount of data needed to describe a full-color bit map. JPEG compression can reduce 24bit images to about 1/20 of their original file size. The process selectively discards relatively unimportant image data and then compresses the rest. This slightly degenerative compression is dubbed lossy, and the higher the compression setting, the more data is discarded. At compression ratios of up to 20:1, images look visually identical to their originals, revealing differences only on very close inspection; at higher compression ratios, image degradation starts to become obvious.

Applications offering JPEG compression include Kodak's Colorsqueeze, Radius' ImpressIt, and Storm Technology's PicturePress. Each program creates files in a proprietary format, but the programs also make self-decompressing image files or provide a freely distributable decompression utility.

EPS

PostScript Objects and Bit Maps

Encapsulated PostScript is a popular format for storing object-oriented artwork. Although it can also store bit maps, EPS is seldom used for this purpose, because it's not an economical format, in terms of file size, for pixel-based art. The EPS format has two subtypes: ASCII (text-based) and binary (hexadecimal). There's no way to tell the two apart by looking at a file, but object-oriented programs (such as Illustrator and FreeHand) that have EPS as their default Save option use the ASCII format.

An EPS file in ASCII format usually contains two versions of the graphic. The main image is a resolution-independent PostScript (text) description for printing on a PostScript device. The second, optional image is a low-resolution, bit-mapped PICT preview — sometimes called placed EPS — that can be quickly displayed on-screen without PostScript interpretation. This double-image scheme

enables page-layout programs to import, crop, and scale high-quality EPS graphics while using the quick-rendering PICT version to provide feedback to the user. If an EPS file has no embedded PICT version of the graphic, the importing application will display a rectangular placeholder.

If an object-oriented image is saved in EPS format, it will retain its resolution-independent printing quality, but typically when opened—even by the same application that created it—it can't be ungrouped, refilled, or recolored (Illustrator files are an exception). However, the image can be resized, distorted, or cropped. Note that when you slant, resize, or rotate an EPS image, the screen version may become distorted but the image prints perfectly. Unlike bit-mapped files, they're impervious to importation miscues. Moreover, all color-separation programs accept and correctly separate EPS files.

Bit-mapped images can also be saved in EPS format, but each pixel of the bit map will be individually described by CMYK color attributes. Expressed as ASCII text, the descriptions of all those pixels produce huge files. Fortunately, there's a more compact format, binary EPS, for saving color bit maps. Binary EPS is outwardly similar to the ASCII version, containing both a PICT preview image and the actual graphic. The pixels of the printable graphic, however, are stored as a stream of hexadecimal numbers, which express the same information as ASCII text but use only half the disk space. Both Photoshop and ColorStudio can save bit-mapped graphics in binary EPS format.

PostScript

A PostScript file is a purely text-based description of an image, without the displayable PICT image that EPS offers. In many applications (PageMaker, for example), you can create a PostScript file by holding down Command-Fwhile clicking on OK in the Print dialog box. The Print dialog box in version 7.0 of the Laser-Writer printer driver has an option for printing files to disk in PostScript format. A PostScript file can be opened with any word processor and modified.

The beauty of pure PostScript is that you don't need the original application to print the file. With a PostScript download utility, the PostScript file can be fed directly to a PostScript printer such as a LaserWriter or high-resolution image-setter. The drawbacks are that there's no preview image and that the graphic loses

its editability. Therefore, always keep the original version of an image in the native format of the creating application.

DCS

Preseparated Color Bit Maps

Desktop Color Separation is not a format, per se; it's a technique developed by Quark for separating color TIFF and PICT images *before* bringing them into a pagelayout application. It enables programs that can't internally separate bit-mapped images to incorporate the graphics into their color-separated-page files. Applications that can produce DCS files include ColorStudio, Photoshop, and PrePrint.

A DCS separation consists of five files: four EPS files - one each for the separated cyan, magenta, yellow, and black components of the original image - and a linked PICT "master" file for screen display. You place, crop, and scale the lowresolution PICT image in a DCS-savvy program such as PageMaker, Quark-XPress, or FrameMaker. When you are ready to color-separate the completed layout, the layout application automatically fetches the separation files; applies the positioning, scaling, and cropping information used on the PICT image; and merges each DCS file with the appropriate page plate.

PICS

Animated Bit Maps

A PICS file is essentially a collection of PICT or PICT2 bit-mapped images in sequential order, much like movie frames. It's the storage standard for programs, such as MacroMind Director and Super-Card, that create animations. It's also an output option for 3-D applications — Swivel 3D Professional, StrataVision 3d, and Infini-D, for example — that can animate objects or viewpoints to produce sophisticated action, simulations, and structure walk-throughs.

PICS files can be huge, depending on their color depth, number of frames, and frame size. Some applications economize on file space by compressing a PICS file, but the compression scheme is not standard and the resulting movie may play back only through the application that created it or through a playback program supplied by the same developer.

Salvatore Parascandolo is product manager for advanced graphics at Silicon Beach Software, an Aldus subsidiary. Senior editor Aileen Abernathy is MacUser's resident expert on desktop publishing. TI made PostScript® printing affordable.



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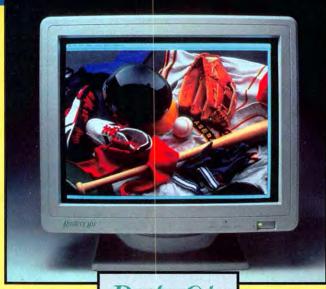


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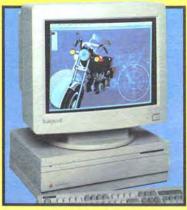
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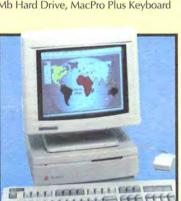
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STEP BY STEP

Custom Color Logos

You can create eyecatching display type by converting font characters into editable graphics and adding special effects such as blends.

By Janet Ashford

he brightly colored labels that once adorned boxes of California produce are now collector's items. The logos featured colorful lettering in bold styles as well as illustrations of fruits and vegetables. Some modern agricultural firms are keeping this graphic tradition alive, however. Fresno-based designer Charles Shields uses Adobe Illustrator 3.0 to reproduce the clean, air-brushed look of the original labels. (Similar effects can be created in FreeHand, LetraStudio, TypeStyler, or Canvas.)

Recently Shields created a 1940s-style logo for a producer of dates. He scanned lettering from an old type book and created a PostScript Type 1 font with Fontographer. He then typed the appropriate letters in Illustrator, converted them to editable objects, and filled the outlines with a custom three-part gradation. Using Adobe Streamline 2.0, Shields auto-traced a scriptstyle font and a drawing of date palms. Taking advantage of Streamline's ability to automatically assign colors to black and white areas of an image, he made the tree silhouettes black and the surrounding open areas gold.

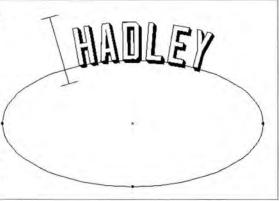
Graphic designer Janet Ashford coauthored *The Verbum Book of PostScript Illustration.*



Using Illustrator 3.0 and Streamline 2.0, designer Charles Shields created a traditional-looking logo for Hadley dates.

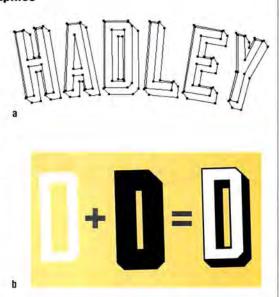
Setting Type on a Path

Shields finds Victory, a typeface with a 3-D look, in a book of copyright-free typefaces. The characters are scanned and converted into a PostScript Type 1 font with Fontographer 3.3, a font-creation program. (An existing font from a type vendor could also have been used.) After the printer and screen fonts have been installed, Shields types the letters for HADLEY in Illustrator 3.0, using the path-type tool to set them along the top curve of an ellipse.



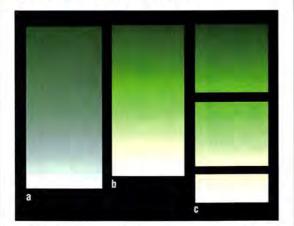
Converting Text to Graphics

In order to add a blend to the text. the font characters must be converted to graphics. The text is selected, and the ellipse's center point is deleted (to avoid an error message). The Create Outlines command then converts the text to PostScript objects, complete with Bézier points (a). (The shapes that define the "counters" [holes] in the A and D are automatically linked to the outer shapes as compound paths so that the counters remain transparent when the letterforms are filled.) The letter faces are now white-filled objects sitting on top of the black-filled letter sides. The left edge of each letter side extends slightly beyond the left side of the corresponding letter face so that it appears as a black outline (b).



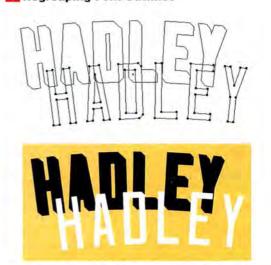
STEP BY STEP

Creating a Three-Part Blend



In Illustrator, producing blends involves creating a gradation between two colored objects. A single blend can move between only two colors — for example, between dark green and white (a). But Shields plans to fill the *HADLEY* letter faces with a four-color gradation, so he constructs a special three-part blend. A thin, dark-green rectangle is blended to a yellow-green rectangle directly below it. In turn, the yellow-green rectangle is blended to a yellow rectangle below it. Finally, the yellow rectangle is blended to a yellow rectangle. The result looks like a single multicolored blend (b). If the sections are separated, however, you can see three distinct two-color blends (c).

Regrouping Font Outlines



Shields wants to fill the *HADLEY* letter faces with the four-color gradation and a yellow stroke but leave the letter sides black. To do this, he must split the character outlines into letter faces and letter sides. The outlines are selected as a group and separated into their component shapes with the Release Compound command. Shields then recompounds the faces of the letters *A* and *D* by selecting the outlines and counters and using the Make Compound command.

5 Masking Blends into Letters



For each letter of *HADLEY*, the three-part blend is copied and rotated by eye over the letter shapes so that the direction of the blend and its corresponding letter are aligned. The letter face is then selected and styled with a yellow stroke and no fill. Shields defines the shape as a masking object by checking Mask in the Paint Style dialog box. Using the Send to Back command ensures that the masking object (the letter face) is behind the object to be masked (the blend). Finally, each letter and its blend are grouped, which activates the mask and makes the blend visible only inside the shape of the letter. Because the extraneous areas of the blend are hidden by the mask, the black letter sides are clearly visible.

6 Creating Script Lettering

Date Gardens

Shields creates the words *Date Gardens* by scanning an old font called Coronet Bold and using Streamline 2.0 to autotrace the scan. The Streamline outlines are opened in Illustrator, where unwanted letters of the alphabet are deleted. The appropriate letters are arranged so that they flow together like cursive handwriting.

Making Outlined Text

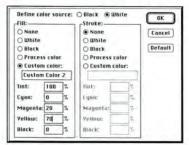
Date Gardens

Della Garrelans

Date Gardens

The Date Gardens letterforms are styled with a 5.5-point black stroke and fill (a). Then the Copy and Paste in Front commands are used to position a copy directly over the original. The copy is given a 2.5-point white stroke and fill, which leaves part of the original shape showing from behind as a black outline (b). Another copy is created, placed directly on top, and given a red fill and no stroke. The final effect has red letters that flow together, surrounded by a double outline of white and black (c).

8 Producing Palm Trees







Palm-tree outlines are drawn with a felt-tip pen; scanned; and opened in DeskPaint, where the tree silhouettes are filled with black. The image is saved as a PICT file, opened in Streamline 2.0, and auto-traced in Outline Mode. Streamline's Tint & Color dialog box is used to change the style of white areas to a gold fill with no stroke (a). When the EPS image is opened in Illustrator, this custom style is automatically applied to the graphic (b). A circle is drawn and positioned behind the palm-trees image and filled with the same gold color (c).

Finishing the Design

The completed palm-tree art is positioned to the left of the lettering. A copy is flipped and placed on the right, and a blue ellipse is placed behind the lettering. A line of type in Copperplate is set on a curve along the bottom of the ellipse. Shields adds black and white outlines to the circles and ellipse, using the technique described in Figure 7.



Creating More Logos



Shields used similar typecreation techniques to produce logos for several other agricultural firms. This label for First Place fruit uses the Victory font originally created for Hadley dates.



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When you're installing Macintosh Ethernet networks, don't buy an expensive router just to solve the printer problem. Find out today how EtherPrint and EtherPrint Plus can save you a bundle. Call 801-531-0600.



CIRCLE 133 ON READER SERVICE CARD.



Got a big network? Tired of scrolling through endless lists in the Chooser? Check out Silver Cloud, from AG Group ([510] 937-7900). This Chooser replacement lets network administrators configure customized "pseudo-zones" that display in a single dialog box any collection of printers, servers, and the like even though the device icons displayed may be of different types and may physically reside in different zones. Prices start at \$695 for a 50-user pack.

By Henry Bortman

Fast and secure routing: Compatible Systems has announced the RISC*Router 3000E, a RISC-based Ethernet-to-Ethernet router. Due in spring 1992, for \$2,995, the RISC*Router 3000E will be powered by the MIPS R300A RISC chip and will support the AppleTalk, TCP/IP, and DECnet protocols as well as SNMP-based network management. ❖ Meanwhile, Compatible's Ether*Route and Ether*Route/TCP LocalTalk-to-Ethernet routers now

offer **Enhanced Network Security** (ENS), which lets a network administrator set up password protection to restrict user access to network devices (such as printers) or even to entire zones. Shipping with all new routers; free upgrade available to current router owners.

More restrictions: KeyServer, a management utility from Sassafras ([603] 643-3351), lets you control the number of simultaneous users of an application that resides on a Mac connected to a network. The new 3.0 version lets a server administrator control which users may access an application by restricting its use



to certain user names and requiring a password. It also supports AppleTalk Remote Access. Prices start at \$680 for ten KeyServer users.

Little hubs: Everyone's getting in on the Ethernet 10BASE-T-minihub act. Shiva was first with the 4-port Hublet (\$399). TechWorks now offers a \$449 8-port hub, the HubWorks-8. Dayna's 8-port DaynaSTAR MiniHub is also \$449. Asanté's 10T Hub/8 comes in at \$399. Asanté has also reduced the price of its 12-port 10T Hub/12 by \$200, down to \$799. The "correct" way to compare prices on such items is to compare price per port. Anyone who learned long division — or has a calculator — can do this with relative ease, but just in case: TechWorks' HubWorks-8 and Dayna's DaynaSTAR MiniHub, \$56 per port; Asanté's 10T Hub/8, \$44 per port; Shiva's Hublet, \$100 per port.

Purple haze: Silicon Graphics, maker of the high-powered 3-D graphics workstations used to produce the special effects in *Terminator II* and *Star Trek*

VI, recently added three models to its IRIS Indigo line. Offering the same small footprint as the original Indigo, the Indigo Gold, Gold 24, and Express (priced at \$13,500, \$15,500, and \$27,000, respectively) provide increasing degrees of 3-D graphics power. The Gold 24 and Express offer 24-bit color. (415) 960-1980.





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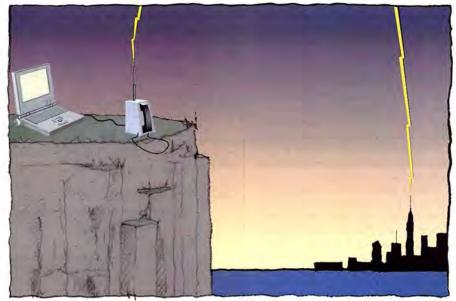
Resellers: Asanté products are available from Ingram Micro, Tech Data and Macamerica.

OPERATING SYSTEMS

Dialing for Data

With Apple's release of the PowerBooks, Mac users on the go are looking for ways to dial in to the office.

By Stephan Somogyi



t's inevitable. At some point, you'll leave your office and realize that you left something on your Mac — something you wanted to take with you. If you have a modem connected to your Mac at work and a modemequipped Mac with you, you can retrieve what you need with one of the remote-access products now available.

Although modem connections are slow, they make it possible and feasible to dial in to your office to gain access to the resources on your company's network. Even if you aren't dialing in to a network, you can use a modem to connect to another stand-alone Mac for screen sharing and file transfer or for dialing in to an E-mail server to send and receive E-mail.

Dialing the Net

The most general and useful form of remote access is dialing in to a network. Any network resource—a printer or a file server, for example—that you would normally access with your networked Mac is equally accessible via a remote connection. There are two approaches to network dial-in on the Mac: peer-to-peer (any Mac can dial any other Mac) and centralized (you have to dial in to a Mac running dial-in software or to a stand-alone hardware device).

Apple's ARA (AppleTalk Remote Access) 1.0, the most recent addition to the Mac dial-in field, is a peer-to-peer solution. The same software is installed on both Macs, and either one can call the other. ARA uses a new protocol,

ARAP (AppleTalk Remote Access Protocol), to transmit AppleTalk data over phone lines efficiently.

ARA requires System 7 and is seamlessly integrated into System 7's user interface. System 7's Users & Groups paradigm lets you control who can access your shared folders. When ARA is installed, you can use the Users & Groups control panel to specify which remote users can dial in to your Mac (see Figure 1).

ARA also provides callback security: When a user dials in, gives the correct password, and is validated, the machine that was called hangs up and calls the originating Mac back. This ensures that no outsider can successfully dial in with only the password. It also makes your base Mac's phone line the one to which the bulk of your phone charges are billed. There is a hitch: You have to set up the callback number before you leave town — and you don't always know what it will be.

The process of dialing in to another Mac via ARA is straightforward. The Remote Access application creates connection documents that contain blanks for a user name, the password, and the phone number being called. The caller fills in the necessary information, and Remote Access sets up the connection. Connection documents can be saved and reused.

Shiva has several stand-alone hardwarebased products that allow network dial-in. Shiva's TeleBridge, EtherGate, and Net-Modems let remote users connect to a network

BRIDGES

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over standard phone lines, using Shiva's dial-in software, which works under either System 6 or 7. They connect directly to a network and allow a remote Mac to access that network directly without having to go through another Mac. They also enable users on the network to dial out and don't require a separate modern for each user.

The TeleBridge enables a standard modem to be used for remote network connections. NetModems — there are three different models — are modems with built-in network capability. The EtherGate is primarily an Ethernet-to-LocalTalk router; when a modem is connected to one of its two serial ports, it supports dial-in connections.

Shiva's dial-in software, common to all of its dial-in products, uses the Network control panel as its user interface (see Figure 2). Once you've entered a phone number and chosen a serial-port speed, the dial-in software connects with the remote device. If a dial-in password has been set up, you are prompted for it when the modems connect. Shiva's hardware supports only a single dial-in password for all users, and callback is not an option.

Farallon's Liaison 3.0 is yet another network dial-in product for the Mac. As with Shiva's packages, Liaison's dial-in capability is only one feature of the product. It is primarily a software router. Liaison runs on the base Mac, the one you dial in to. You use Liaison's dial-in software, Liaisonet, from remote sites. Both Liaison and Liaisonet run under either System 6 or 7.

Liaison allows very flexible configuration of dial-in users' access rights, including callback. But because Liaison is a software router, using it for dial-in means adding a router to your network. Some network managers may not want to do this, because adding a router inevitably adds complexity to a network.

Tapping Network Resources

Once you're connected to your office network, you can access all its services: file servers, mail servers, networked printers, databases — any resource you can normally access from a Mac connected directly to the network.

File Sharing. Via AppleShare client software, you can get at all AppleShare and compatible servers, including shared volumes on System 7 Macs that have filesharing turned on. You can also access TOPS volumes if you run TOPS software

on both sides of the connection.

You probably don't want to perform any transfers of large files over a dial-up link, though. If you think LocalTalk (230.4 Kbps) is slow, try moving a 500K file across a 2,400-bps connection. If you need to move large files across a dial-in link, you should use compression utilities you can invoke remotely. Products such as Aladdin's SpaceSaver and Salient's

AutoDoubler let you compress files simply by renaming them. Over a remote AppleShare or TOPS connection, this is useful, because all you have to do to compress a file on the disk it resides on before transferring the file is attach a special compression suffix to the filename. If you have screen-sharing software installed, you can control your base Macintosh remotely to compress files with a compression tool

U	Linda Pitcher	
	User Password:	*******
	File Sharing Allow user to connect Allow user to change pa	ssword
	Groups:	ŵ
	Program Linking Allow user to link to pro	ograms
	Remote Access Allow user to dial in Call back at #: 555-12	12

Figure 1: ARA extends System 7's Users & Groups paradigm, enabling users to control remote access to their Macs.

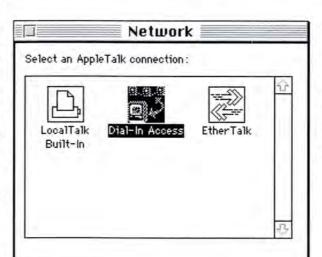
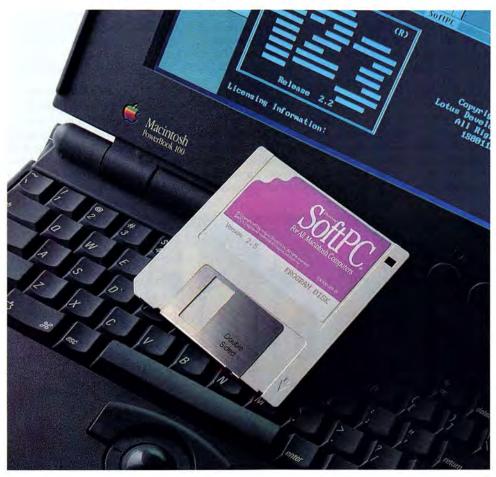


Figure 2: Shiva's
Dial-In Access
software is
activated from
the Network
control panel.
When you connect
to a remote
network, you're
disconnected from
your local one.

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such as DiskDoubler or StuffIt before you move it across your dial-in link. In almost all cases, the transmission time you save by compressing the file before the transfer is greater than the time it takes to compress and decompress the file.

Application Launching. In general, dialing in to a network and running an application that resides, say, on a file server is not highly recommended. You'll spend a lot of time watching the clock hands turn as not only your data but also the program code moves over the dial-in link. One thoughtful feature of ARA is that if you inadvertently double-click on an application that resides on the other end of a remote connection, ARA displays a warning dialog box that asks if you really want to launch the program.

Other Services

Although dial-in network connections give you access to resources on a distant network, you sometimes need to connect to another Mac that isn't on a network.

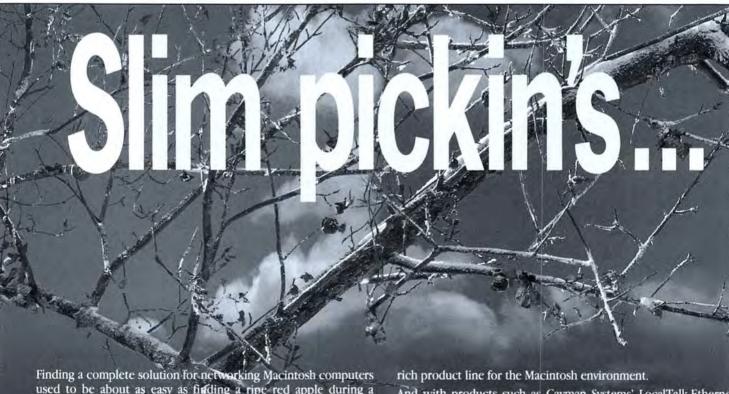
Screen Sharing. Microcom's Carbon

Copy Mac and Farallon's Timbuktu/ Remote allow one Mac to control the screen of another over a dial-up connection, regardless of whether the computer is on a network or not. The screen of the Mac you dial in to appears in a window on your screen; you can control it as if you were sitting right in front of it. Although the Mac you dial in to needn't be on a network, if it is, you can access that network's services, using the called Mac as your proxy. There is one difference between dial-up screen sharing and being there in person: Dial-up is much slower (you'll probably want at least a 9,600-bps modem). Carbon Copy Mac and Timbuktu/ Remote also provide file-transfer capability that doesn't require the use of AppleShare or TOPS.

Remote Mail. Of all the E-mail packages available for the Mac (see "Stamp of Approval: Mac E-Mail Systems," March '92, page 158), only CE Software's QuickMail offers an application with a full graphical interface for making nonnetworked dial-in connections directly to the mail server. (Microsoft Mail provides an ASCII-only terminal-like utility. And you can, of course, use any of the networkbased E-mail packages over a network dial-in connection). OuickMail Remote has a user interface that's similar to that of the network version of QuickMail client software. However, it doesn't allow remote creation of address books: You can create address books only while you are connected to a QuickMail server over a network. If you forget to do this before you take off for parts unknown, you may be stuck on the road and have to remember the names of your mail recipients precisely as they appear on your QuickMail server, middle initials and all.

Repelling Invaders

Any phone line that lets users dial in to a network or a Mac has the potential for unauthorized access to network services such as file servers and databases. ARA can be set up to be secure, but because it is an end-user-oriented product, there's no guarantee that users will take advantage of



used to be about as easy as finding a ripe red apple during a mid-winter freeze. The pickin's were pretty slifin... until now!

Cabletron Systems, the company that brings you the industry's most complete networking solution, now provides a rich harvest of connectivity options for Macintosh users to choose from-including Ethernet, Token Ring, and FDDI.

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its security features. Any users who install it on their Mac are adding potential unauthorized access points.

An individual password can be assigned to each remote user who is allowed to access a specific Mac. But the setting that restricts remote users to accessing only the services available on that Mac (file-shared volumes, for example) and denies them access to the services of the rest of the network (such as AppleShare file servers) is a global setting. If you provide complete network access to any remote user - such as yourself when you're on the road you risk giving access to anyone who dials in to your machine. If you inadvertently enable guest access to your Mac, you also enable access to all network services, which creates an extremely vulnerable break-in point.

To mitigate this vulnerability, Apple provides a rudimentary form of network security for ARA. It allows a network administrator to establish a special password that all users on the network must enter before they can enable dial-in access

On the Horizon

Shiva and Cayman Systems have given technology demonstrations of dial-in servers, devices that have multiple serial ports for connection to modems. These units will offer similar flexibility in managing user access — setting user names and passwords, for example — as Apple's ARA does, because the dial-in client software for these new boxes will be ARA. The servers will let users off-load the task of managing dial-in network connections from their office Mac, for example, to a stand-alone hardware device.

The next step in the evolution of ARAP (AppleTalk Remote Access Protocol) is also in the works. ARAP 2.0 will use PPP (point-to-point protocol) to move data across remote links. The current version of ARA (1.0) uses an Apple-developed proprietary protocol to maintain the modem connection and transfer data. PPP is a standard protocol used in several different networking environments for dial-in connections. It allows multiple network protocols to run over the same PPP connection, unlike the current ARAP implementation, which supports AppleTalk only. At press time, there was no firm time frame for ARAP 2.0's release.

on their Mac. This password is used for the entire network. To set up this password, however, the network administrator must change the network's router configuration and add a new zone. If your network doesn't have a router or the administrator is disinclined to add a new zone just to support dial-in, Apple's security solution will be inadequate, because a reasonably

bright hacker can easily gain access to privileged information. Several vendors plan to market dial-in servers (see the "On the Horizon" sidebar) with more-robust security.

Shiva's products allow only one dial-in password, which is shared by all remote users. Anyone who discovers that password can dial in to the network, so many



- LocalTalk Ethernet Token Ring • FDDI
 - Desktop Connectivity Macintosh II . Classic II . LC • SE • SE/30 • PowerBook portables
- SNMP, local and remote
- Bridging and Routing
- ► Network Diagnostics Protocol and packet analysis
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networks with these products aren't sufficiently secure.

Liaison, of all the current network-dialin products, provides by far the mostcomprehensive security. As with ARA, each dial-in user has a separate user name and password and can have callback enabled. ARA lets users manage their own individual list of authorized dial-in users and passwords; with Liaison all calls must come to one central point, the Mac running Liaison, and the network administrator usually manages the user list.

In addition to network access, the services on a network should also be secure. For example, network administrators should not allow guest access to servers. Many users forget to disable guest access when they turn on file sharing. The same goes for any network service such as a multiuser database: If it can be made more secure, it should be. Although some users decry this approach for being unnecessarily harsh, you should consider the value of the data on the network. If you don't mind that anyone with a modem can access a

particular network service, there's nothing to worry about. If, however, sensitive and critical information is present on your network, it should be protected.

A Word or Two of Advice

Dial-in connections are slow. Although 2,400 bps is usable for E-mail, it's painfully slow for anything else; 9,600 bps is satisfactory for most network services, including screen sharing and modest amounts of file transfer. V.32 modems, which provide 9,600-bps bandwidth, are dropping in price and are rapidly becoming the dial-in standard. If you dial in frequently, an investment in a V.32 modem will pay off quickly.

V.32bis modems, which provide a bandwidth of up to 14,400 bps, are also becoming more affordable but are still much pricier than V.32 modems. However, for telecommuters and those who dial in regularly, this investment will amortize quickly, because of the time savings. After all, V.32bis throughput is 50 percent greater than that of V.32.

Dialing in is now part of the Mac mainstream. Fast modems are fairly inexpensive, and various types of dial-in software are available to meet a broad spectrum of remote-access needs. The main problem left is network-dial-in security, which is inadequate in most products.

Dialing in to a network provides the best overall value, because it allows access to all network services. Point-to-point screen sharing is useful when there is no remote network or the connection must be network-independent. E-mail dial-in provides the most focused feature set and is also the easiest for nontechnical users.

If your network currently has no dial-in capabilities, you should investigate the possibilities. The flexibility of being able to reach network resources remotely will soon make you wonder how you ever did without it.

Stephan Somogyi, MacUser's network administrator, thinks telecommuting is cool, because it keeps him in closer proximity to his stereo, refrigerator, and local bakeries.



CIRCLE 125 ON READER SERVICE CARD.

Directory

Aladdin Systems, Inc.

165 Westridge Drive Watsonville, CA 95076 (408) 761-6200 SpaceSaver 1.0, \$59.95 Stufflt Deluxe 2.01, \$99.95

Apple Computer, Inc.

20525 Mariani Avenue Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 996-1010 AppleTalk Remote Access 1.0, \$199 (three-Mac license)

CE Software

1801 Industrial Circle West Des Moines, IA 50265 (515) 224-1995 *QuickMail Remote* (part of the QuickMail package), ten users, \$599 **Farallon Computing**

2000 Powell Street Suite 600 Emeryville, CA 94608 (510) 596-9000 Liaison 3.0, \$395 Timbuktu/Remote 3.0, \$195

Microcom

500 River Ridge Drive Norwood, MA 02062 (800) 822-8224 (617) 551-1000 *Carbon Copy Mac 2.0*, \$99; unlimited users in a zone, \$299

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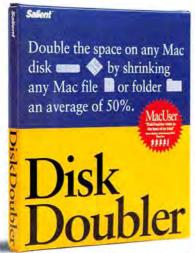




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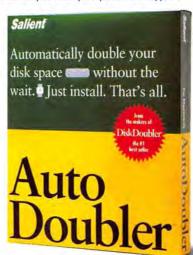
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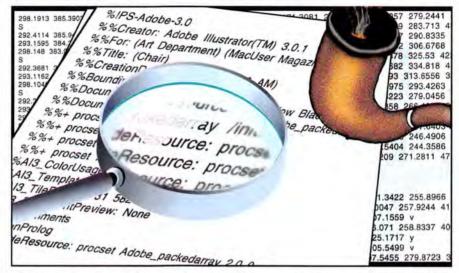
CIRCLE 95 ON READER SERVICE CARD.



The File That Wouldn't Print

By doing a little sleuthing, you can often discover the reason why a document won't print.

By Kurt VanderSluis



n the last installment of Trouble Shots ("'I Can't Print," March '91, page 199), we were hot on the trail of a printing problem. A client couldn't print a nine-page Word file on a PostScript laser printer (GCC's BLP IIS), because of a PostScript error in the printer. I traced the problem to an incompatibility between the Word document and LaserWriter driver 7.0 and fixed the problem temporarily by having the client print the document with System 6.0.7 and LaserWriter driver 6.02.

But the client needed a solution to this printing miscue so he could return to using System 7 and LaserWriter driver 7.0. This meant I'd have to troubleshoot the problem at a deeper level, getting inside the printing process and finding out exactly what was going wrong so I could solve the problem on a permanent basis.

When I tried to print the Word document and monitored its progress with PrintMonitor, the error message I received from the printer was "Error: stackunderflow; Offending Command: exch." This error had occurred while the printer was trying to turn the PostScript instructions sent by the LaserWriter driver into a printed page. The error message indicates that when the printer interpreted the exch command, it erroneously anticipated that two pieces of data were present in specific locations in its memory but those memory locations were actually empty.

I knew that version 4.00D of Microsoft Word was compatible with System 7 and LaserWriter driver 7.0. The Word file contained several imported graphics, however, so

I suspected that the error might be connected to one (or more) of the embedded images. Because I didn't know which application(s) had produced the graphics, I needed to do a little sleuthing through the PostScript instructions to find out

One way to monitor the PostScript instructions was to print the file again and use a protocol analyzer such as AG Group's Ether-Peek/LocalPeek or Neon Software's Net-Minder to capture the data packets as the LaserWriter driver sent them to the printer. By looking through the PostScript data packets, I could discover where the offending exch command was. The disadvantage to this approach — besides the requirement for a protocol analyzer — was that the PostScript instructions would be spread out over many data packets.

My preferred approach is to create a PostScript version of the Word document. A PostScript file is a single, continuous string of ASCII text, which is easy to open in a word processor and comb through for clues - a way around deciphering data packets. The Print dialog box for LaserWriter driver 7.0 has an option for printing files to disk in PostScript format. The resulting PostScript file contains all the PostScript instructions that would normally be sent to the printer, plus a bit more. In a normal print job, for example, the Laser-Writer driver determines what fonts the printer has in its memory (or on an attached disk) and downloads only the additional font definitions needed for the document, if any. Because a PostScript file is created without any regard to

TROUBLE SHOTS

the target printer's characteristics, the file contains a definition for every font used in the document.

After creating the PostScript file, I opened it in a word processor and numbered the lines of PostScript code so I'd have a

reference system to help me work through the file. Next, I replaced all the instances of *exch* with *exch*. This changed nothing, of course, but it did reveal that there were 292 instances of the exch command, which had caused the stack-underflow error. Then I got an idea of where the Word document's page breaks were located within the PostScript file by searching for *Page 1*, *Page 2*, and so on.

When the error message occurred, PrintMonitor reported that eight pages of the nine-page document still had to be printed. Because the printer had not produced a page yet, I suspected that the problematic exch command was located on page 1 or page 2. Both pages contained several graphics.

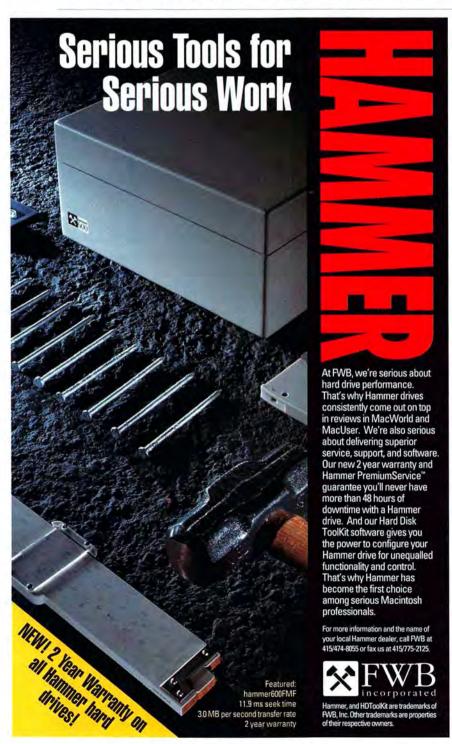
I selected all the lines of PostScript code that described page 2 (lines 1210 to 1764) and counted the number of instances of *exch*. There were seven occurrences, all of them in a PostScript definition that followed a comment on line 1237:

% P2 Header - Version 2.0-14 - Copyright 1988 Silicon Beach Software, Inc.

This comment line provided a vital clue about the program that had created the suspect graphics. Silicon Beach Software (a subsidiary of Aldus) is the developer of SuperPaint, a popular graphics application. This comment line marked the beginning of the PostScript definition for P2, in which SuperPaint 2.0 describes how to draw a particular object. All the instances of exch occurred between the comment line and the many lines of hexadecimal numbers that began on line 1268. Because rows of hexadecimal numbers indicate a bit-mapped image, it was obvious that lines 1238 through 1267 and the hexadecimal code that followed were the instructions for a SuperPaint graphic that was in the document.

I checked System 7: Compatibility with Selected Hardware and Software, a booklet that Apple ships with System 7, and found that SuperPaint 2.0 was listed as mostly compatible and that version 2.0a was listed as fully compatible. (SuperPaint 3.0, now shipping, is also fully compatible with System 7.) If mostly compatible means that the software does everything but print, then I wonder if Dr. Jekyll would be considered mostly professional.

I had determined that the P2 definition on page 2 was responsible for the printing error, because it contained the offending exch command, but I wondered if other graphics in the file also contained this definition, which would make them printing risks too. To investigate, I searched the PostScript file for other instances of Silicon Beach. The first instance appeared on page 1 at line 660. This definition, also of P2, was similar to the one on page 2,



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which was my primary suspect. Page 1 also contained three other SuperPaint definitions for P2, all of which contained the offending exch command.

But one thing didn't quite fit. If the SuperPaint P2 definition was the culprit, then why didn't the error message appear until after page 1 had been processed? (Remember, when the error occurred, PrintMonitor showed that there were eight pages left to print.) This indicates that the printer could interpret a similar SuperPaint definition on page 1 without error. But I remembered that the printer had a buffer and figured that the printer had discovered the offending exch command on page 1 as the LaserWriter driver was loading the instructions for page 2. This explains why page 1 never came out of the printer even though the printer had already accepted all the PostScript instructions to print it. Aha!

I decided to test the seven graphic images on the first two pages by printing them individually from a Word document. The pattern was immediately obvious. The graphics that printed without any problem were bit-mapped images created in Super-Paint's Paint layer. The images that wouldn't print under System 7 contained object-oriented graphics produced in SuperPaint's Draw layer. To test this theory, I used a screen-capture utility to take screen shots of all the object-oriented graphics in the Word document. Then I replaced the suspect graphics with the bitmapped screen shots. After I tried this, pages 1 and 2 - and the rest of the document - printed without error.

Finally, I had solved the mystery of The File That Wouldn't Print. But solving the printing problem created a new dilemma for the client. Although the screen shots fixed the printing problem temporarily, their quality was much poorer than that of the original artwork. If the client wanted to maintain the quality of the object-oriented graphics, he needed to fix the problems with the original images and then reimport them into the Word document.

The client had several options, all of which would require some effort. Upgrading to SuperPaint 3.0 and using it to open and resave the original object-oriented graphics would likely fix the printing problem, because this version was System 7-compatible. Otherwise, the client could open the graphics in another drawing program, such as MacDraw or Canvas, and resave them. Presumably,

these programs wouldn't have the same printing problems as SuperPaint 2.0. He could also re-create the graphics from scratch in another program. Yet another possibility was to convert the images into bit-mapped graphics (in SuperPaint or another program), but they would lose the smooth curves and high resolution of the original object-oriented images.

Kurt VanderSluis is president of The Network Group, a training and consulting firm in Seattle.

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With just 250 or so shopping days till Christmas, what do you get for the lucky person who already has a PowerBook 170? How about a Type 1 PostScript font that lets you sign your name in your own handwriting with a single keystroke? Perfect for fax-modem correspondence. Just send \$79 and an unlined sheet of white paper with ten signatures in black ink to Allen Associates, 27 Colden Hill Road. Newburgh, NY 12550; (914) 566-1425. And if you say you want a TrueType version too, the company'll throw one in at no extra charge.

By James Bradbury

Waste is a terrible thing to mind: Especially if your office is sharing a PowerBook among several users. How can you be sure that a confidential memo you put into the Trash won't be resurrected by some Norton Utilities-toting coworker who'll subject you to Bryant Gumbelian humiliation? TrashMaster, from HandOff, of Allen, Texas ([214] 727-2329), is a control panel that makes it easy to erase confidential files completely from a hard disk so they can't ever be resurrected. The \$69.95 utility also sports a host of other Trash-customization options that give you total control over what gets deleted when.

In the 'Cards: By the time you read this, Claris should be shipping its new QuickTime-savvy HyperCard 2.1. As an upgrade, it'll cost you \$15. Call (800) 544-8554 or (800) 668-8948 (Canada) for upgrade information. X Meanwhile, Aldus has released its \$299 System 7-savvy SuperCard, which can open HyperCard 2.0 stacks. (800) 333-2538 or (206) 622-5500. X Whichever 'Card you decide to use, take a look at the free stack by Erik Marcus called VegieCard—it'll tell you everything you ever wanted to know about vegetarianism. After all, the Mac was the brainchild of a vegetarian who named his company after a fruit. Available from ZiffNet/Mac and other on-line services.

Back basics: Your spine has 24 vertebrae, but it takes only one of them to make your life a misery. A couple of "portable" ergonomic products that might keep that from happening: The \$39.95 Back-Up, from Nada-Chair, of Minneapolis ([800] 722-2587 or [612] 623-4436), has been a popular attraction at Mac shows for years — it's essentially a lower-back pad with two straps that fit

around your knees. It looks strange, but it's comfortable and lightweight and it really does seem to encourage better posture. **

Notebook* users might also want to check out the \$295 Edelson Desk, from Nathan Edelson, of Missoula, Montana ([800]735-0885 or [406]721-5997). It's portable (OK, at 20 pounds, it fits Apple's old definition of portable) and lets you work seated, standing up, or on the floor. (A more elaborate version for deskbound Macs is also available for \$495.)

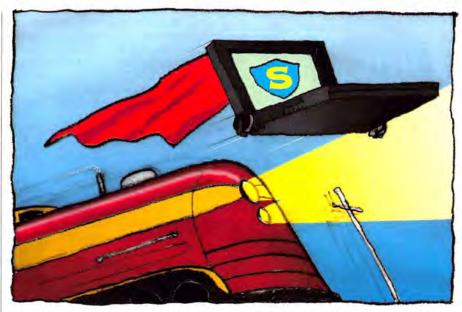


Around the world in 80 megabytes: Kids who are interested in exploring the world on a different level — that of ecology — might be interested in **Earthquest Explores Ecology**, a \$59.95 interactive encyclopedia that explores various ecosystems. Fifteen interactive games, including one featuring "renegade vegetables" (gee, they didn't mention them in VegieCard), keep things interesting. Available from Earthquest ([415] 321-5838).

More-Powerful PowerBooks

Turn your PowerBook into a SuperPowerBook by adding a few nifty features Apple left out.

By Steven Bobker



owerBook sales are exceeding all projections (well, maybe not mine, but almost all others). The PowerBooks are revolutionary — as important as that first Mac in 1984 and more significant than the Mac II. They are fundamentally changing the way many people compute, and they'll bring many new users both to Apple and to personal computing. By the end of 1991 (a scant 72 days after the PowerBooks' release!), Apple vaulted from being a no-show in the notebook market to being the third-largest notebook shipper in the U.S. (after Compaq and Toshiba).

What can you, a PowerBook user, do to make your notebook Mac an even better, more powerful, and more useful tool? In other words, what's lacking in Apple's current models? The main deficiencies are the lack of video output and the lack of memory (and for some, hard-disk storage space).

A View with More Room

The PowerBooks have been criticized for not providing gray-scale on-board video or a video-out port. A video-out port would let you connect an external monitor to your notebook, and it is a common feature on mid-to-high-priced DOS notebooks. Such ports provide color output (from color-capable machines) and access to larger monitors. Apple reasoned (correctly) that it would be better to let third parties offer video-out options for those who wanted them and to translate the resulting savings into lower PowerBook prices.

Built-in gray-scale screens are a different matter. They make sense for all PowerBook users, and they'll probably be an option from Apple soon. I'm glad that Apple didn't delay the PowerBooks in order to include gray-scale capabilities, but I do expect to upgrade my own PowerBook once gray-scale screens become available at reasonable prices (this year, I suspect).

For those who do want video-out capability, two kinds of solutions are available right now. The Envisio approach is to provide an internal video board and video-out connector, whereas Radius and others put video output onto the SCSI bus. At press time, only Envisio and Radius were shipping products, but by the time you read this, RasterOps, Computer Care, and others will have weighed in.

Boards from Envisio ([612]653-7694) work well and are very elegant. The tiny, beautifully made boards and connectors are works of art as well as excellent from an engineering standpoint. Envisio offers two products: the Notebook Display Adaptor for the PowerBook 100 and the Notebook Display Adaptor 030 for the 140 and 170. The Notebook Display Adaptor uses the 100's memory-expansion connector and comes with either 1 or 2 megabytes of additional memory (these two configurations retail for \$695 and \$895, respectively). The board has a tiny (about 3/16 inch x 1/8 inch) connector that exits through a replacement backup-battery door. An adapter then plugs in and connects to your video cable. The

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PowerBook 100, and thus the Notebook Display Adaptor, is capable of only 1-bit (monochrome) output. The Notebook Display Adaptor works with all Apple black-and-white monitors (the 13-inch, 15-inch Portrait, and 21-inch) and also most 19-inch black-and-white monitors. It should also work with VGA monitors (the high-resolution monitors of the DOS world).

The Notebook Display Adaptor 030 supports all Apple monochrome and VGA monitors as well as 8-bit color on the Apple 12-inch and 13-inch RGB monitors. Its tiny connector exits through a special replacement cap for the screen hinge (that rounded piece on the left end of the hinge). It has 0, 2, or 4 megabytes of on-board RAM, for a retail price of \$795, \$1,195, or \$1,595, respectively. A RAM-expansion connector lets those whose PowerBooks started life with 4 megabytes continue to use their Apple 2-megabyte RAM cards (which would otherwise be leftovers).

The Envisio products' performance is great—the adapters supply normal video output. The software allows two options. You can have a two-monitor setup, with different material on each screen, or in Presentation mode, you can mirror what's on the PowerBook screen on the external screen. Although installing the board yourself voids your PowerBook warranty (you're supposed to get a dealer to do it for you), the superb manual makes it nearly foolproof.

Radius' PowerView SCSI solution also works well. I noticed no speed difference, even when using complex color graphics, between a PowerView-equipped 140 and an LC. The only problem, and it's a minor one, is that the PowerView package has too many parts. There's the main box itself, a large adapter with cable, a separate large and heavy power cord, and a bulky SCSI cable. All told, it's less portable than the PowerBook! Still, it's a nice product at a reasonable price (\$599).

Talking to the World

The Apple-provided fax modem (the one that got such nice preliminary reviews) is overpriced, underpowered, and not quite Hayes-compatible (try sending it a +++, and see what doesn't happen). Unless you get stuck with one in a 170, it's a poor choice. At press time, PSI Integration ([800] 622-1722 or [408] 559-8544) was shipping a much better unit, the Power-Modem, which lists for \$299 and is available for much less.

The PowerModem is a 2,400-bps data/9,600-bps fax-send and 4,800-bps fax-receive unit. The fax software was written by STF and is excellent. The interface is even better than that of the vaunted Apple fax modem (Option-Command-Print, for instance, sends a fax without making you resort to the Chooser beforehand or afterward). You provide your own data software for this totally Hayes-compatible modem. Installation is supposed to be only by a dealer, but putting the modem in yourself is a snap.

Lifetime Memory and Global Village have also announced PowerBook modems. Both should be shipping by now.

Do You Remember?

The most important add-in for all PowerBooks is still more RAM. Adding RAM should be your first priority if your PowerBook came with only 2 megabytes of RAM and should be your first priority even if you started with 4 megabytes. All PowerBooks can hold and use a maximum of 8 megabytes of RAM. Shoot for that amount.

RAM for PowerBooks comes in two types: dynamic, or DRAM, and pseudostatic, or pSRAM. pSRAM is faster, generally gentler on your battery, and noticeably more expensive. Given my druthers and a fat checkbook, I'd always opt for pSRAM, but if my budget was tight, I'd rather get DRAM than no RAM at all.

There are several good sources of PowerBook RAM. TechWorks makes really small 2-, 4-, and 6-megabyte pSRAM cards of very high quality. PSI offers several kinds of upgrades. The most interesting are printed on flexible circuit boards, which lets them slide into spaces where RAM normally can't go. The bonus on the flexboards is an extra RAM socket. That means that if you have a 4-megabyte PowerBook, the 2-megabyte card you must remove before you can add more RAM won't go to waste. It can be plugged in to the flexboard, thus substantially lowering your upgrade cost.

The disadvantage of the flexboards is their fragility. I'm not shy about putting things into my 140 (the warranty on it lasted exactly as long as it took me to find the Torx T10 and T8 screwdrivers I needed to open it), but the flexboards give even me pause. I wouldn't want to put one in more than once or twice, and getting them out is tricky. But they work real well and save real money.

Other good sources for DRAM and

pSRAM cards are MicroTech International and Lifetime Memory. Lots of companies will be offering PowerBook RAM in the near future.

Carrying On

The power PowerBook user needs two bags. One is the around-town bag, the small form-fitting bag that holds the PowerBook and a few sheets of paper. This bag should fit inside a larger briefcase, if necessary. The other bag is the on-theroad bag. It's luggage that holds the Mac, spare batteries, the AC power adapter, floppy disks, papers, maybe a cellular phone or few cans of soda, and a book. The good news is that you have lots of choices; the bad news is that the quality range is as wide as the Pacific Ocean.

Sure, you can toss your naked PowerBook into a briefcase, but it deserves better treatment. At the least, Kensington's slipcase will protect the case from scratches and guard the fragile connector cover (I'm on my second back cover already). For your around-town bag, check Radio Shack, which makes (and sells cheaply) cases for its Models 102 and WP2 that fit the PowerBooks extremely well.

When shopping for your on-the-road bag, don't forget the T/Maker bag-and-software bundle mentioned in my January Personal Best column (page 193). The WriteNow word processor and the case alone make the package a good value. Other suitable cases I've examined and tortured are the MagentaCase, from Magenta Seven ([919] 787-2787), and the Ultimate Notebook EX and SL, from I/O Design ([215] 524-7277).

The best large-sized case I've seen so far is from The Madson Line ([415] 927-3600) (I bought one of these for my PowerBook). It allows you to use your PowerBook without removing it from the case and has a superior design and finish.

Psst! Wanna Run Five Hours?

Of course you do. Lind Electronic Design ([800] 659-5956 or [612] 927-6303) has a 5-plus-pound external battery. It powered a 140 for well over five hours. However, the battery's size and weight restrict it to car or local use. It's also not cheap, at \$189.95. Lind also makes an excellent \$99.95 adapter that plugs in to your car's cigarette lighter and substitutes for the normal AC power adapter.

There's another possibility that's open to many users with 6 or 8 megabytes of RAM (I hope that's eventually everyone). "We left some things out of WriteNow 3.0"

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It allows five hours of use on a single charge but restricts what you can do. This method was suggested by Mark Gavini, who works for Apple's PowerBook-only toll-free SOS-APPL([800]767-2775) help line. Start by creating a 3-megabyte RAM

disk (set it up in the Memory control panel). Then use your Installer disks to install a minimal System for your particular PowerBook on the RAM disk. Strip out most fonts and anything else you'll never use. This System Folder should be

about 1.1 megabytes. Be sure it includes the Startup Device control panel. Next add a small word processor — WriteNow is an obvious choice. Finish up with some small utilities and maybe a small game or two. My setup uses 1.7 megabytes.

When using the RAM disk, turn down the brightness a bit and try not to use the hard disk. I regularly get between five and six hours per charge when I use my RAM-disk setup on a 140. Between uses I keep all the RAM-disk items in a 1.2-megabyte self-extracting compressed file, which I carry on a high-density floppy disk.

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Pick of the Month

I never have understood the appeal of elaborate, action-packed screen savers. Why should I want to be amused while my computer is idle?

Wallpaper is far more useful for me. It lets me put a large attractive pattern on my working desktop. The standard Mac desktop-pattern grid is a paltry 8 x 8 pixels. ResEdit hacks let you increase that area to 64 x 64 pixels. Wallpaper provides patterns of as many as 128 x 128 pixels (for System 7 users). It comes with several hundred nice (and a few not-so-nice) patterns, and more are available from the publisher. It also has a great set of editing tools

Wallpaper works on all color Macs and on black-and-white Macs that have Color QuickDraw, such as the PowerBook 140 and 170 and the Classic II. You have to search for patterns that look good in black-and-white, but some do. Wallpaper works under both Systems 6 and 7. It's \$59.95 list, and the publisher is Thought I Could, of New York City ([212] 673-9724). It's not exactly a must-have, but it's the neatest utility I've seen in quite a while.

April Is Easter-Egg Month

This month's Easter Egg is in QuicKeys 2.0 and 2.1. It was suggested by Timothy Dowdle, of Chula Vista, California.

Bring the main QuicKeys screen up (Option-Command-Return will do it). Next, click anywhere on the large QuicKeys logo in the bottom left corner. Wait 30 seconds or so. Enjoy. Be sure your sound is turned on. The treat repeats approximately every 30 seconds. Simply click in the dialog box to resume normal operation.

Steven Bobker is System Operator (Sysop) for MacUser's on-line service, ZiffNet/Mac. He can be reached there at 72511,45 and welcomes comments.

How to Buy

Scanners

aving your own scanner aving your on...
used to be a luxury. Now, however, prices are coming down - street prices for some color scanners are less than \$1,500 - and as prices plunge, the number of uses for a personal scanner are soaring. Whether you want to scan office documents into your Mac, using OCR (optical character recognition), or just want to pick up the occasional piece of spot art, the following tips should help you find the right scanner. For moredetailed information, see "Capturing Color: 24-Bit Scanners," December '91, page 152, and "An Inside Look at Scanners," September '90, page 132.

By Victoria von Biel

Scanners convert an image into digital information that is understood by the Mac and can then be edited on your Mac with image-editing software or — in the case of OCR — with a word processor.

When comparing similar scanners, take along the kind of photograph, document, or piece of art you'll be scanning so that you can compare ease of use and the quality of results.

Working with large images or images that contain several grays or colors? Look for a scanner that saves the file to disk rather than to RAM — gray-scale and color scanning require *lots* of memory.

If you need to pick up fine details or type in the work you're scanning, go for a scanner with a high resolution (expressed as dots per inch, or high resolution picks up dirt and flaws on the original art. Standard resolution is 300 dpi.

If you'll be using a sheetfed scanner to scan several documents in succession (for example, if you're doing OCR work), look for a scanner that has a remote scan button, which lets you press a button everytime you insert a new page to be scanned, as you would with a photocopier, or one that has an automatic document feeder. This will add about \$500 to the price, but it will let you load the documents, start the scanner, and then get on with other work.

You'll probably pay more if the scanner comes with image-editing software — it can be the company's own software or a commercially available product such as a special version of Adobe's Photoshop (Photoshop LE, which doesn't include separation capabilities) or Letraset's ColorStudio. The advantage of such software is that you can scan and edit the image without having to switch among programs.

Photoshop, look for scanners that include a Photoshop plug-in — software that enables you to scan from within the program.

If you want a scanner

for OCR work, make sure the OCR software included is easy to use and scans in text accurately — otherwise you may spend as much time editing the text as you would have spent typing it.

For bargain hunters, most monochrome hand scanners cost less than \$500. The good news is that they're small and convenient and even let you scan on vertical surfaces; the bad news is that they're suitable only for scanning small items such as logos and aren't good for extensive OCR work.

2 Determine how the scanner you're considering connects to your Mac. Most connect via the SCSI port (some require a special interface box to do so), a few are connected through the modem or printer (serial) ports, and others require the installation of a special card. A SCSI connection has the advantage of fast data transfer and is easy to install (all Macs from the Plus up have a SCSI port), but to avoid connection problems with other SCSI devices, find out if it has a pass-through connection. Otherwise the scanner may need to be at the end of the chain, which can be inconvenient.



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Turn your notebook Mac into a desktop Mac with the Intelligent Monitor from Outbound Systems. The monochrome portrait monitor, which should list for around \$700, has a built-in video board, so it can be connected directly to any Mac's SCSI port. Designed for Outbound's NoteBook 2000 series, the Intelligent Monitor also expands the horizons of Apple's PowerBooks as well as compact Macs such as the Classic. Outbound offers a keyboard and mouse for the complete desktop experience. (303) 786-9200.

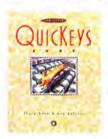
By John Rizzo

Searching question: Which is better, CanOpener 2.0 or On Location 2.0? Answer: yes. Both can search the contents of unopened files, but each provides different capabilities. CanOpener 2.0 (\$125; upgrades are free), from Abbott Systems ([914] 747-4201), is a must-have utility that opens and copies



material from files that are damaged or that were created with applications you don't have. It can also display pictures and play sounds imbedded in a file. On Location (\$129.95; upgrades are \$25), from On Technology ([617] 876-0900), provides the absolute fastest method of searching files. You must create an index of files in advance, however, so On Location can't be used as a universal browser.

Macromania: For a program that's supposed to make your life easier, CE Software's QuicKeys can be daunting to set up. Steve Roth and Don Sellers' *The Little QuicKeys Book* (\$18.95), published by Peachpit Press, lets users in on tricks



that aren't in the manual. Written by a pair of devoted "QuicKies," the book is unabashedly fervent about the macro utility. The authors claim that QuicKeys is more powerful than System 7's Apple events, for example. QuicKeys fans will love it. (510) 548-4393. Hot Keys is a kinder, gentler, easier-to-install macro utility than QuicKeys, and it has 150 predefined Fkey macros and a keyboard overlay to show

you where they are. As with QuicKeys, you can also create your own macros. GO Technology ([702] 831-3100) offers a universal version that works with eight popular Mac programs, and there are specialized versions for specific applications such as PageMaker and Microsoft Word. The new Finder version has a DA that helps you become System 7-savvy. \$59.95 per version.

Big things, small packages: Microcom's 7-ounce MicroPorte 1024 modem (\$649) can be used in your car (!). The MicroPorte uses the MNP 10 error-correction protocol, which is designed to handle finicky cellular links, and runs off AC power, a battery, or a cigarette lighter. The MicroPorte delivers 12,000 bps by using a combination of V.42bis data compression and Microcom's own Turbo mode. (617) 551-1000. ⇒ System 7 may theoretically give you access to 1 gigabyte of RAM, but the current Finder can't allocate more than 97.56 megabytes to a single application. Newer Technology ([316] 685-4904) sidesteps this limitation with MacSwell, a utility that lets a memory-hungry application gobble as much as 256 megabytes of RAM. You first have to have

enough RAM to support this memory gluttony, which is why MacSwell is bundled with Newer's 16-megabyteSIMMchips (\$1,200 each).

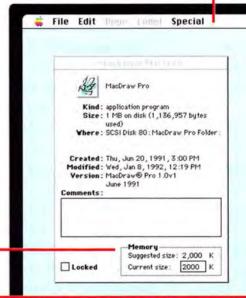
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The Big Screen

If you're ready to graduate to a larger monitor or you want to add a second monitor, you should know these strategies for making the most of all that CRT real estate.

By Sharon Zardetto Aker

- Some applications (such as MacDraw Pro) check the size of the screen when you create a new document window and then allocate enough memory for a document that size. So a memory partition that's sufficient for a program when you're using a small monitor may not be large enough when you use a larger monitor.
- Enlarge windows only as much as needed for the work you're doing it takes less time for the Mac to redraw a small window than a large one.
- Most windows open to the spot where you last left them, but their applications are usually smart enough to make sure they're still on the screen. DAs aren't always so thoughtful, and if the monitor setup has changed since you last used the DA, its window might open 16 inches from the left edge of the screen - even if the screen is only 6 inches wide. If you know beforehand that you're changing monitors - switching the startup monitor in a multimonitor setup, schlepping your hard drive between work and home, or bringing a drive to a service bureau, for example - check that your DAs are within the boundaries of the smaller monitor before you switch.
- If you're setting up multiple monitors, make sure that the upper left corner of the startup monitor isn't adjacent to another screen, or the cursor might slide to the other screen when you're aiming for the Apple menu.



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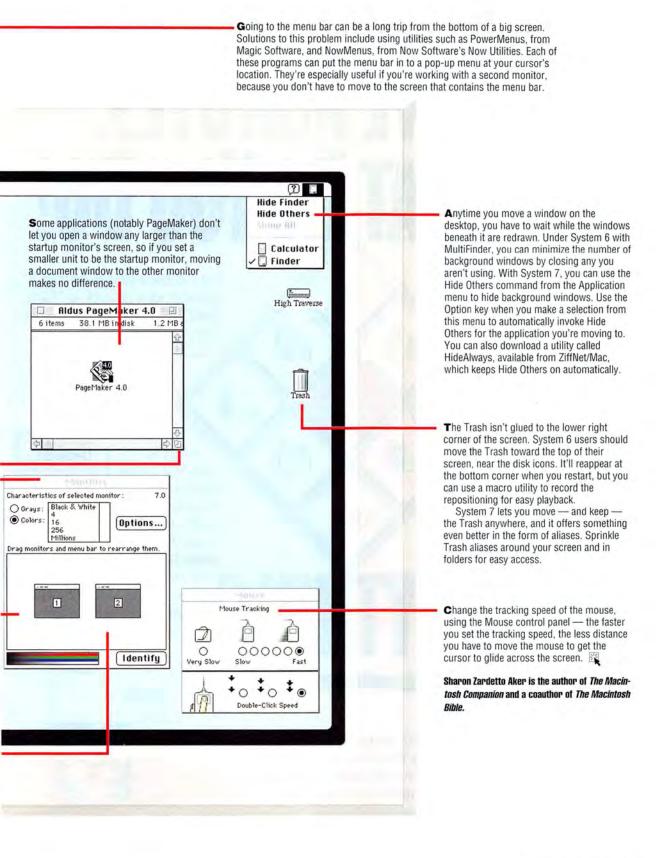
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- If you don't need color, don't use it. If you work with color documents, switch to black-and-white mode when you aren't working on the color component. The best way to switch from one color depth to another is with a utility such as PixelFlipper or Screen Flipper, shareware programs that provide instant switching between black-and-white and various levels of gray or color. These programs are available from ZiffNet/Mac and other sources.
- Besides letting you set the color-display level for a screen, the Monitors control panel also lets you define the spatial relationship between two monitors and designate one as the startup monitor. To define the startup monitor, drag the little menu bar on to the screen you want to use.



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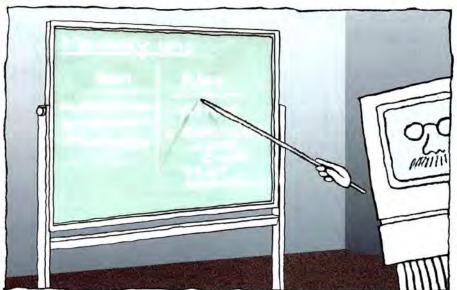
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BEATING THE SYSTEM

Memory 101

Welcome to a short course in managing your Mac's memory.
Not only will you learn about the disk cache, virtual memory, 32-bit addressing, and RAM disks but you'll also see how they can boost your Macintosh's performance.

By Bob LeVitus



nder System 6, your Mac could have as much RAM as you wanted as long as you didn't want more than 8 megabytes. Recognizing that many of today's applications have a big appetite for memory, Apple gave System 7 the ability to access massive megabytes. On many Macs, you can install as much as 128 megabytes of RAM; with virtual memory and 32-bit addressing, you can access as much as 1 gigabyte.

The profusion of choices these days inevitably leads to more confusion. How much RAM do you really need? What is the disk cache? What does virtual memory do? Should you use it? And what the heck is 32-bit addressing?

In this "Memory 101" short course, Professor LeVitus will provide memorable answers to these questions and more.

The Basics

The Mac has two categories of memory: ROM and RAM. ROM (read-only memory) is permanent, nonerasable memory that resides on a chip inside your Mac. It contains basic system software for the Mac's user interface and is inaccessible to users.

When people ask you how much memory your Mac has or whether you use 32-bit addressing, they are talking about RAM (random-access memory). RAM is the Mac's temporary work space: It holds the current version of system software (such as System 7) plus currently active applications and files and is the limiting factor in determining the number of

applications you can run simultaneously. RAM is sometimes called *volatile memory*, because its contents are lost when you shut down or crash. RAM comes in the form of chips called SIMMs (single in-line memory modules); you can expand the Mac's memory (up to a limit) by adding more SIMMs. (For more on SIMMs, see "How to Buy Memory," February '92, page 259 and "SIMMple Pleasures," April '91, page 194.)

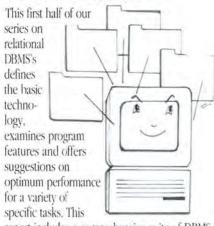
Under System 7, you can adjust RAM-related features through the Memory control panel. The availability of options—disk cache, virtual memory, and 32-bit addressing—depends on which Mac model you have. Every Mac has a disk cache, but virtual memory and 32-bit addressing appear only if your Mac supports them.

One way to get a quick performance boost is to increase the size of your disk cache (called RAM cache and controlled through the General control panel in System 6). This special area of RAM stores the data that's been retrieved most recently from your floppy or hard disk. If the information is needed again, it can be read from RAM far faster than from a disk. The disk cache's default setting is 32K per megabyte of installed RAM: Don't reduce it unless you need to free up every last kilobyte of memory.

If you have the RAM for a larger cache, try increasing the setting to 128K or 256K and look for subtle performance improvements. Commands such as Find and Quit should be executed faster, and switching among open

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POWER TOOLS BEATING THE SYSTEM

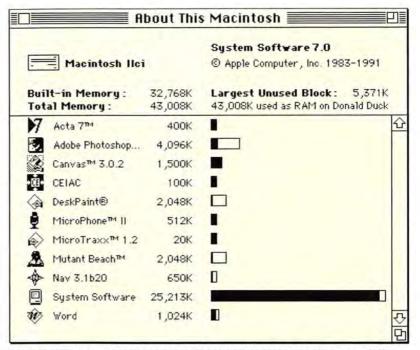


Figure 1: If you yearn to keep all your favorite applications open at the same time, you'll need a massive amount of RAM. This power-user setup combines 32 megabytes of physical RAM with 10 megabytes of virtual memory for an awesome performance increase. The 25,213K for the system software includes 21 megabytes for a RAM disk.

applications should be faster too. Don't forget that you must restart before the changes will take effect. Also remember that RAM used for the cache is not available for running applications. Don't set the cache to more than 256K — it will barely affect performance, and it needlessly wastes RAM.

To boost the performance of a specific program, try increasing its memory allocation. Simply select the application's icon, choose Get Info from the File menu (Command-I), and type a larger number in the Current Size box (this option is called Application Memory Size under System 6). This increases the portion of RAM that's dedicated to the application, allowing more of the program to reside in RAM and reducing the frequency of disk accesses. For example, PageMaker's minimum RAM allocation is 1,500K, but you should set it to at least 2,048K for optimum performance. Again, you'll have to experiment to find the optimum setting for each program.

System 7 Enhancements

If your Mac has a 68030 or 68040 CPU (or if you have a 68020 Mac II with a PMMU chip installed), you can use *virtual*

memory. Virtual memory is System 7 voodoo—it tricks your Mac into thinking that it has more RAM than it actually does. How? By transforming free space on your hard disk into pseudo-RAM. For example, if you have 2 megabytes of physical RAM and 6 megabytes of virtual memory, your Mac will think and act as if it had 8 megabytes of memory.

Virtual memory has two major disadvantages: It's slower than real RAM, and it gobbles up hard-disk space like crazy. Once you've specified an amount for virtual memory in the Memory control panel, the Mac creates an invisible file on your hard disk called VM Storage. The file is the size of the total memory — RAM plus virtual — so a Mac with 2 megabytes of RAM and 6 megabytes of virtual memory uses 8 megabytes of hard-disk space for its VM Storage file.

For the best results, don't use more virtual memory than you have real RAM. If you use more than 2 megabytes of virtual memory on a 2-megabyte machine, for example, you'll experience a major performance slowdown as data is constantly swapped on and off the hard disk. Once again, experiment with the setting. What I perceive as painfully slow may not

The System 7 File: Hide and Seek

One of the great features of System 7's Applications menu is its Hide Others command. Invoking this command makes all background applications invisible, leaving only those windows related to the foreground application and greatly reducing desktop clutter and confusion. Hide Others is particularly useful in the Finder if you want to view files or folders

on your desktop but still keep an application running in the background.

The only problem with Hide Others is that you have to choose it whenever you switch applications; otherwise, the windows of the formerly active application remain visible. One way around this is to hold down the Option key each time you choose another program from the Application menu. This hides the windows of the formerly active program. A better solution is *MacUser's* Utility of the Month, HideAlways, which always keeps only the active application's windows showing by automatically hiding formerly active applications.

HideAlways is a System 7 extension written by Mike Throckmorton, an Ann Arbor, Michigan-based developer who's also written two other Utilities of the Month, DiskSwitch and ZMakeAlias. All three programs are available exclusively on ZiffNet/Mac (part of CompuServe), in Library 3 (Extensions) of the Download & Support Forum (GO

ZMC:DOWNLOAD). The filename for HideAlways is HIDEAL.CPT.

bother you. Most people should reserve virtual memory for occasional use when they temporarily need more RAM than is physically installed.

Most Macs can access up to 128 megabytes of physical RAM and as much as 1 gigabyte of virtual memory with 32-bit addressing. The explanation of what it is and how it works is beyond the scope of this article; suffice it to say that if you want to use more than 8 megabytes of RAM, you must turn on 32-bit addressing. If your Macintosh has more than 8 megabytes of RAM, the extra RAM will be ignored unless you boot with 32-bit addressing turned on.

Which Macs support 32-bit addressing? The answer is a bit complicated. Machines with a 68000 CPU — the Plus, SE, Classic, Portable, and PowerBook 100—don't support it at all. Macs with a 68030 or 68040 CPU and "32-bit clean" ROMs — the LC, Classic II, IIsi, IIci, IIfx, Quadras, and PowerBooks 140 and 170 — fully support 32-bit addressing.

But four 68020 and 68030 Macs—the II, IIx, IIcx, and SE/30— have "32-bit dirty" ROMs, which prevent them from supporting 32-bit addressing unless you install a little program called MODE32. MODE32 was developed by a company called Connectix as a commercial product; Apple acquired an unlimited license to it in September 1991 and began distributing it for free. You can get a copy from user groups, on-line services, and dealers.

One last thing you should know about 32-bit addressing: It's incompatible with many older applications, INITs, and control panels. If you run into a compatibility problem, you can usually turn 32-bit addressing off, restart the Mac, and run the

program successfully. Many companies already have 32-bit-clean upgrades for their products.

RAM Power

Probably the most compelling reason to have more than 8 megabytes of RAM is that you can keep a bunch of programs open at the same time. INITs and control panels load when you start up the Mac, but do you know where they load? They load into memory, leaving less RAM available for running programs. For example, my System 7 software — which includes almost 30 INITs and control panels —chews up almost 5 megabytes. On an 8-megabyte Mac, that would leave 3 megabytes, enough to run only one or two programs.

Installing large amounts of RAM also lets you open larger files. If you use programs such as Photoshop or MacroMind Director, work with digital audio or video, or do 3-D rendering, you may need more than 8 megabytes simply to open files.

If you really want to be a power user, get enough RAM to create a big RAM disk. A RAM disk is a portion of memory that's configured to look and act just like a hard disk. You can modify the contents of a RAM disk as if it were a hard disk, but because all operations take place in memory, performance is enormously enhanced. Copy an application to a RAM disk, and it will run like greased lightning. Stash your System Folder on the RAM disk, and the Finder really burns rubber.

Unfortunately, RAM disks have a couple of serious drawbacks: For one thing, they're extremely volatile. If the power is interrupted or you have a bad crash, the RAM disk's contents are lost forever—unlike with a real hard disk. Whenever

you turn off your Mac, for example, the RAM disk is erased, and you must recopy its contents whenever you start up. RAM disks are also expensive. To create an effective RAM disk, you need 2 to 4 megabytes beyond what your system and applications use — and much more if you want to store several applications on it. In most cases, this means endowing your Mac with at least 20 megabytes of RAM.

Creating a RAM disk from on-board memory requires a RAM-disk utility. There are several available, including two 32-bit-clean shareware programs, AppDisk and RamDisk+, which are available from on-line services and user groups. (On ZiffNet/Mac, these utilities are available in the Download & Support Forum [GO ZMC:DOWNLOAD]. AppDisk is APPDSK.CPT in Library 3 [Extensions], and RamDisk+ is RAMDSK.SIT in Library 1 [Applications].)

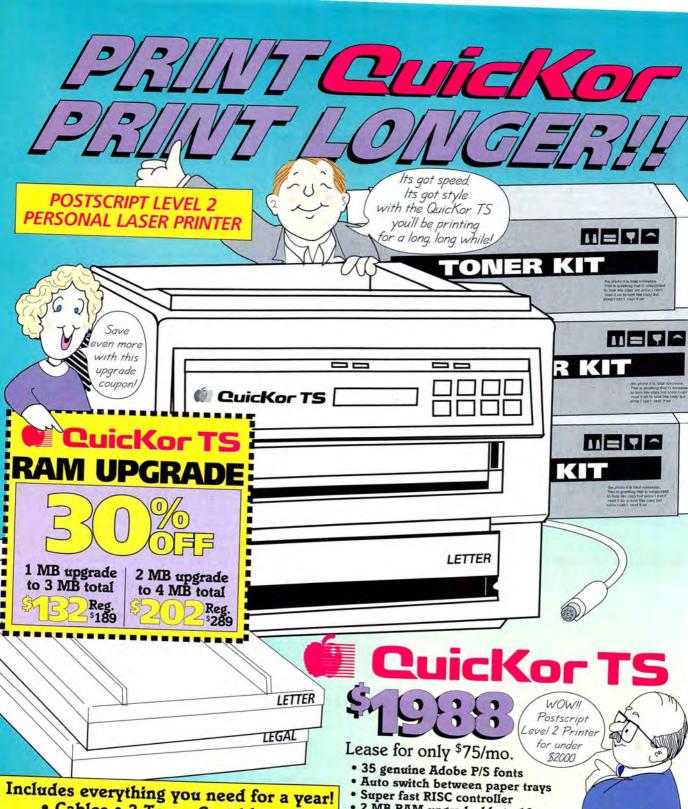
Maxima, a \$129 commercial utility from Connectix, takes the RAM-disk concept one step further. It maintains a copy of its contents on a hard disk, so they aren't lost when you shut down or crash, meaning that you can boot your Mac from the Maxima RAM disk — one of the coolest uses for a RAM disk.

To get some hands-on experience with System 7's new memory capabilities and the Maxima RAM disk, I added a 32-megabyte RAM upgrade from Technology Works (around \$1,000 at press time) to my 8-megabyte Mac IIci. Wow — booting and running programs from a 20-megabyte RAM disk is awesome! And with 12 megabytes of real RAM left over, plus another 10 megabytes of virtual memory, I'm able to keep open everything I might need — for days (see Figure 1).

Well, class, that's all we have time for today. Your homework assignment is to get a copy of *The Macintosh Memory Guide*, free from Connectix ([800] 950-5880 or [415] 571-5100) and read it from cover to cover. This informative, clearly written booklet is only slightly biased in its coverage of SIMMs, clean and dirty ROMs, virtual memory, PMMUs, RAM disks, and other memory-related topics. It also includes a lucid discussion of 32-bit addressing and a reference section that presents the memory capacities and specifications for most Mac models.

Class dismissed.

Bob LeVitus is the author of the Just-released *Dr. Macintosh, Second Edition* as well as several "Stupid" books.



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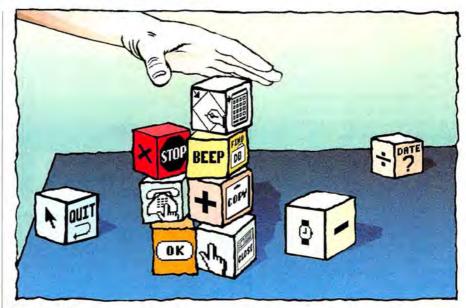
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POWER PROGRAMMING

Let's Get Visual

With the advent of visual programming, if you can click and drag, you can write useful code.

By Andy Ihnatko



riting software is fun. Trust me, there's no greater rush than having a real dopey idea and turning it into a real dopey program. Who wouldn't want to write a best-selling program and create a corporate juggernaut of such phenomenal wealth and power that you could afford to alienate both Apple and IBM?

Unfortunately, many people are scared by one small detail: They haven't the foggiest idea of how to write software. Enter VP (visual programming), a radically different way to write code. Instead of making you type line after line of marginally English-like commands and statements, VP packages, such as TGS Systems' Prograph and Serius' Serius Programmer, let you "write" a program by linking graphical objects that represent segments of prewritten code. The result is a stand-alone application that, in theory, is written by a mere mortal in a fraction of the time it would take with a conventional programming language, such as C or Pascal.

Does visual programming deliver on its promise of giving you a simple yet powerful way of writing your own applications? Maybe.

Traditional Versus Visual

The programmer's equivalent of "Chopsticks"—the first minimal program you write when you're learning a new language — is a "Hello" program that displays a silly message on-screen (see Figure 1). When written in Symantec's THINK C, even the simple phrase

in this figure can confuse budding programmers. Most folks deduce that printf must be some sort of printing command, but the \n, semicolon, brackets, and main() are all somewhat mysterious, because they serve only to help C understand the program's structure.

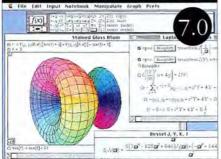
This same program is much easier to understand when you write it visually with a package such as Prograph. Knowing that the program displays a message, you can logically figure out how it works. It's clear that the show object somehow takes whatever phrase is fed into it from the top and produces it on-screen. No muss, no fuss. Behind the scenes, show—the iconic representation for a bundle of prewritten code — creates an alert box, sticks in an OK button, outlines it as the default, and displays the message in a specific font.

This example illustrates three nifty features of visual programming: It's easy to learn, it's easy to use, and it hides most of its complexity from a bewildered programmer. All of this means that you can create a usable program very quickly. You don't need to care about the Mac's Dialog Manager, Control Manager, QuickDraw, or any of the other Toolbox machinery. Instead of writing a few dozen lines of C or Pascal, you need know only about the show object and its parameters.

Hacking Visually

What makes visual programming so attractive? Gizmos. Gizmo is my term for each bundle of prewritten code that is represented

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- MacWorld magazine, May 1990.

- Five mice review, MacUser magazine, June 1990. ***

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 MacUser magazine, Editor's Choice Award, Best Math Program of 1989.

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POWER TOOLS POWER PROGRAMMING

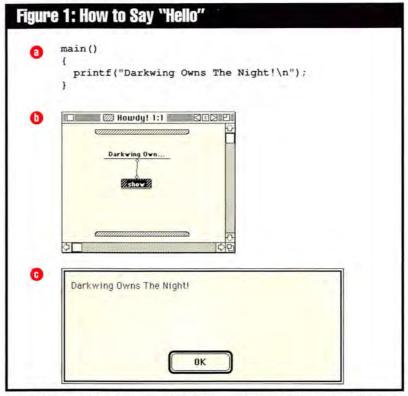


Figure 1: A simple "Hello" program that displays a message on-screen (c) can take radically different forms. With Symantec's THINK C (a), creating even this simple phrase might confuse a budding programmer, but it's much easier to understand the program when you write it visually with Prograph (b). It's obvious that the show object simply takes whatever phrase is fed into it from the top and produces it on-screen.

by an icon in a VP program. Prograph calls them *modules*, and Serius Programmer refers to them as *objects*. For simplicity's sake, I'll use gizmos.

The beauty of VP is not so much that you're sliding little rectangles around instead of typing arcane commands; it's the insanely great way that VP packages write most of the code so all you do is fill in the blanks. All VP packages come with a variety of gizmos, each of which does one simple task. By linking the gizmos, you can create full-featured applications that handle such complex tasks as telecommunications, database management, drawing, painting, or animation.

Let's say you've got a hankerin' for some breakfast, so you dig through your VP package's documentation, and lo and behold, there satoaster gizmo in there. You couldn't care less whether it's a two-slicer or a four-slicer or if it toasts by using nuclear fission. If you want toast, you need only feed it some bread and specify the toasting level.

But suppose you want buttered toast as

part of a complete Cap'n Crunch breakfast like you see on TV. No problem. Simply link the appropriate gizmos (see Figure 2). It's easy to figure out how the program works; all you have to remember is that it flows from top to bottom, with the bottommost element being the final product of the routines. I'll leave the code for the rest of the breakfast up to your imagination. I needn't say how different this program would look in Pascal.

The Dark Side of the Source

At this point, you're probably thinking, "If visual programming is so wonderful, why isn'teverybody using it?" The truth is that VP has some serious drawbacks:

The Maytag Syndrome. It's a C and Pascal world out there. You'll realize just how lonely visual programming can be when you look for books to teach you how to program, for information on algorithms, or for support from your programmer peers on sticky debugging problems. Popular VP packages such as Prograph and Serius Programmer have strong followings, and

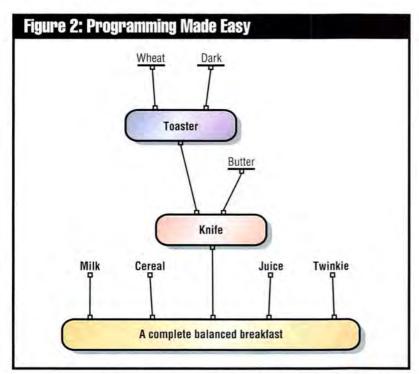


Figure 2: With a VP package, you can quickly create a full-featured application simply by linking the appropriate graphical objects. In this case, we want to include some buttered toast as part of a complete breakfast: We hook the toaster gizmo to the knife gizmo, and so on. All you have to remember is that the program flows from top to bottom, with the bottommost element being the final product of the routines.

support is always available from their publishers and from on-line services, but the interplanetary popularity of C and Pascal is hard to beat.

You Can't Always Get What You Want. With VP packages, the kinds of functions you can put into a program are limited by what gizmos are available. It may be impossible to put a floating palette or custom menu definition into your program, because the package's designers failed to provide such gizmos. Sure, you can usually write your own gizmos in C or Pascal, but isn't that what you wanted to avoid in the first place?

Spaghetti Code. Project management is also a little stickier when you use visual programming. As a project gets larger and more complicated, it gets increasingly difficult to look back and get a sense of how the program flows and executes. It's extremely important to maintain a clear vision of your objective and keep detailed notes about your program's various functions and modules, which ones have been completed and which still need some work. Without these records, a week's vacation from your Mac can lead to hours

of frustration as you struggle to pick up where you left off.

Porky Programs. Invariably, applications written with VP packages consume an obscene amount of disk space and run disgustingly slowly. VP code can be eight times as large as a comparable C program and nearly unusable on slower Macs because of the overhead. When you run a VP application on a Mac Plus, for example, you can make a sandwich while you're waiting for a sentence to appear on-screen. This pokiness is the most serious drawback of VP.

So Why Even Bother?

Certainly you'll never see a major commercial product written with a VP package, but there are still situations where visual programming excels. Rather than developing a database or telecommunications tool with commercial software such as FileMaker Pro or MicroPhone II, you can use the prefab database and telecom gizmos that are available with some VP packages to quickly build a custom application that meets your needs. You can take advantage of all elements of the Mac's



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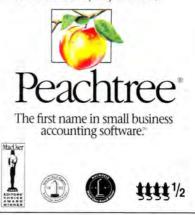
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POWER PROGRAMMING

user interface, and you won't have to hire a programmer. Better yet, your users won't have to pay hundreds of dollars for the commercial program.

Even "real" hackers, who'd rather eat vegetables than use visual programming, must admit that VP is splendid for testing program design. Prototyping utilities such as Prototyper and AppMaker already exist, but they don't let you model an entire program in the same exact, functional detail that VP packages do.

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Visual Packages for the Mac

The two most popular VP packages for the Mac, Prograph and Serius Programmer, represent opposite ends of the spectrum. Prograph is closer to a "real" language than is Serius Programmer. In addition to all-in-one gizmos, Prograph has graphical objects that represent almost everything in the Mac's Toolbox; any Mac program that can be written in C can be written with Prograph. The trade-off is ease of use. Prograph makes you wade through a fat tutorial book — it's exceptionally clear and well written, but it's still a big book — before you can write an application of any complexity.

So it takes several weekends of study to understand how Prograph works; in contrast, you can go from breaking the shrinkwrap on Serius Programmer to writing an impressive application in a single afternoon. Serius Programmer is fundamentally simpler; it contains many more allin-one gizmos, and you're completely insulated from the Mac's Toolbox and its complexity. As you can guess, Serius Programmer's faults are the opposites of Prograph's. Sure, with a single gizmo, your program can provide a complete MacPaint-type graphics program, but it's considerably more difficult to make that program draw a series of lines in a window.

Persistence of Vision

Visual programming has arrived, and it's here to stay. As the storage capacities and raw speed of personal computers continue to increase and more advances are made in the development of visual-programming packages, the porky, sluggish nature of programs built visually will become less of an issue.

For the moment, visual programming must be content to occupy no more than a niche in the Wide World of Software. If you're truly interested in Mac programming, your best bet is to buy a copy of THINK C or Pascal, get a good tutorial (such as any of Dave Mark and Cartwright Reed's excellent books), and start hacking. In truth, you can teach yourself Macintosh programming in about four months.

In a nutshell, the desire to wrest software development from the grasp of the technical-class bourgeoisie and make it simple enough for the proletariat is a good one, but the visual-programming revolution is still a long way off.

Contributing editor Andy Ihnatko considers programming a wonderful way to avoid actual work.

POWER TOOLS TIP SHFFT



Do you have an undocumented Macintosh tip you're willing to share? MacUser pays \$25 for every tip used, and the Tip of the Month earns \$100.

⊠ Send your tip, together with your name, address, and phone number, to Tip Sheet, c/o MacUser, 950 Tower Lane, 18th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404.

You can also contribute tips electronically via Ziff-Net/Mac, the on-line service for MacUser. Send them to GregoryWassonat72511,36. Be sure to include your full name and mailing address along with the text of the tip.

Compiled by Gregory Wasson

Word Processing

There's not a whole lot you can do about poor underlining of letters with descenders—for example, when you underline a word such as <u>change</u> and the *g* gets sliced through. Words with such letters in the middle look better if you change the offending letter(s) to plain text and leave the rest of the letters underlined.

Clayton L. Olson Santa Cruz, CA

AppleShare (System 7)

Accessing a shared file, folder, or volume through the Chooser requires seven mouse steps. Creating a folder of aliases for shared items and leaving it on the desktop or on your Apple menu allows access in two mouse steps. To access a particular shared item, simply open the File Server folder and double-click on the alias of the desired item. In the Password dialog box, just enter your password (if applicable) and click on OK.

Better yet, you can access the File Server folder directly from the Open dialog box within an application. Just click on the Desktop button, double-click on the File Server folder, pick a shared item, and double-click on it.

When the time comes that everyone on the network keeps a File Server folder of aliases instead of the actual shared files on their desktop, at day's end, as people start to shut down their Macs, you'll be less likely to see a flurry of Shut Down Alerts across the network.

Howard A. Partner Raleigh, NC

Finder

Many applications include utilities or commands for erasing and reformatting a series of floppy disks. Yet there are occasions when you have to rely on the Erase Disk command of the Special menu in the Finder. Here's a trick to speed things up if you have two floppy drives:

Insert the two floppies you want to reformat or erase, and highlight the icons of both disks on the desktop. Now you can use a single Erase Disk command for both disks, with only two prompts required during the process. This shortcut is also useful for reformatting multiple partitions on a hard disk.

Dennis Reynolds Freeville, NY

Microsoft Excel 3.0

When working on dissimilar, multiple spreadsheets simultaneously in Excel, I find that the Workgroup command saves me critical time. Although the Workspace command brings up multiple spreadsheets, it doesn't let you work with them all at the same time. Workgroup, however, lets you save and print the dissimilar spreadsheets without going into

Tip of the Month

Microsoft Word

If you find yourself restricted to a word-processing program for DTP after experiencing the relative luxury of a dedicated DTP product, you'll quickly begin to miss the ability to set predetermined spaces. Word, for instance, has a nonbreaking space, but that's it. You can, however, create spaces by "whiting out" characters of the desired width — namely, an em dash, an en dash, or any number (in most fonts, all numbers are the same width to aid in alignment; see Figure A).

Here's how to do this in Microsoft Word: Type a dash or a placeholding number, select it, and choose White from the Character dialog box. You can assign a key combination to White and Black through the Commands option on the Edit menu, or you can use a macro program to create

the entire space. This technique greatly speeds up typesetting chores in which lots of specified spaces are needed.

Dashes in text should have a tiny bit of space on both sides. Normally typesetters use one or two units, with units being defined as ¹/₁₈ of an em. You can create your own thin space in any program that allows you to print in white by using any punctuation mark, such as a period or a comma, that is the same width as a thin space. Store the entire dash-with-spaces combination in a macro, and you'll be able to provide the perfect dash instantly.

In Show Paragraph mode, Word does not display white text as invisible, although the text does print that way.

Bob Terry Austin, TX

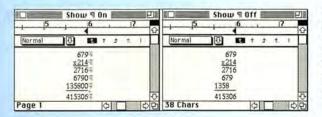


Figure A: An innovative use of white-on-white text in Microsoft Word makes it possible to create fixed spaces — useful for aligning numbers.

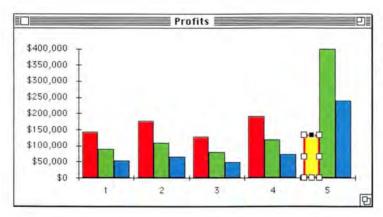


Figure 1: Using the Command key lets you restrict pattern/ border changes to just one bar in an Excel chart.

each separate sheet. For example, 1 had 20 interactive spreadsheets arranged on my screen and did not want to save and print 20 separate times. I simply selected all the spreadsheets in Workgroup, and with just two commands — Save and Print — all my work was done for me. However, be

careful not to make layout changes to one sheet or all the sheets will be changed.

Sharla Vohs San Francisco, CA

Here are a couple of Excel tips that will help put you in command of the program:

To modify the pattern,

foreground, and/or border of one occurrence of a bar representing data in a bar chart, hold down the Command key and double-click on the desired area. Make your modifications, and click on OK. The other bars of the same original color will remain unchanged (see Figure 1).

Normally when you create a chart, you highlight all the columns and rows starting from the first cell and work your way down to the last cell. Sometimes, though, you might want to exclude a certain row between the first and the last cells. The Command key comes to the rescue once again. Select all the rows up to the row you want to exclude, in normal fashion. Now hold down the Command key, and choose only the rows after the excluded row. Click on the Chart button to create the chart.

Jojo Mendoza Springfield, VA

InTouch 1.1.5

InTouch 1.1.5 is a great program, but it has one annoying feature — the first record of the file is preset with the name and address of the publisher,

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Advanced Software, and this information normally can't be modified or deleted. The following tip lets you change it to whatever you want:

 Open a copy of the InTouch DA suitcase with ResEdit.

2. Open STR# -15999.

Scroll down to string 17 and 18; these are the left and right sides of the first record, respectively. Change them to whatever you like.

4. Quit ResEdit, saving your changes to the InTouch DA suitcase. Install the modified InTouch DA suitcase.

5. InTouch creates the permanent first record when it creates a new InTouch file. Create a new InTouch file, and you'll have your personalized permanent record as the first record. You can then export your existing entries (if any)

from your old InTouch files and import them to new ones.

Russell Salerno East Meadow, NY

RasterOps

I use a Mac SE/30 with 8 megabytes of RAM, a Raster-Ops 264/SE30 card, and a Mac 13-inch RGB monitor. Because there's no way to turn off the Raster-Ops card, if your control panel is set to display the menu bar on the external monitor when you take your Mac out of the office without the external monitor, you have to remember to change the control-panel setting to display the menu bar on the internal monitor before you shut down the machine.

RasterOps says the way around this problem is to boot from a floppy disk. I don't like this method. Here's another way. Under System 7, put an alias of the Monitors control panel onto the desktop of the internal monitor. Also make sure that you place the Monitors control panel on the internal monitor so that it opens up there rather than on the external monitor. That way, if you travel without the external monitor, you can just open the Monitors alias, reset the menu to display on the internal monitor, and restart.

Frank Rezny Kanata, Ontario Canada

EndNote Plus

EndNote Plus is wonderful for keeping a list of references for a document, but it can't also keep track of figure and table numbers for a report. You can add this ability by copying the EndNote Plus application onto your hard disk. For

references, figures, and tables, you'll need two extra copies. Name the new versions End-Note B and EndNote C. These copies of EndNote Plus need to use unique characters to mark the temporary citations in your document. EndNote Plus stores these characters in a preferences file in the System Folder, so you must use ResEdit to rename the preference files the copies use. Open EndNote B in ResEdit, and open STR# resource number 128. The eighth string in this resource is the name of the preferences file. Change it from EndNote Prefs to EndNote B Prefs, and save it. Make a similar change for EndNote C.

Next, launch EndNote B and select Citation Markers from the Edit menu. Change the markers from [and] to { and }. Similarly change the citation



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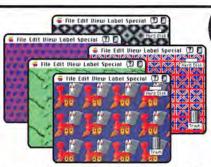
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Tips from the Experts

Quicken

Just in time for our annual travails with the IRS, Intuit's techsupport staff shares some of its secrets for getting the most out of its popular personal-finance program, Quicken.

Customizable Command Keys. Hold down the Command key when you choose a menu item that lacks a keyboard command equivalent. This action brings up a dialog box that lets you assign Command-key shortcuts. You can also use this technique to delete or change existing keyboard shortcuts.

Keyboard Navigation in Lists. When the Account, Category, Class, Memorized Transaction, or Transaction Group list is the active window, simply type the first letter or first few letters to select the desired item in that list.

Adjust Date/Check Number. You can use the + key or the - key to increase or decrease the date and/or check number by 1.

markers in EndNote C to < and >.

Now, when you're writing your document, create a reference-list file in EndNote Plus, a figure-list file in EndNote B, and a table-list file in EndNote C. When the time comes to format your document, open your base document in one copy of EndNote and format it, open the first formatted document in the next copy of EndNote and format it, and

open the second formatted document in the third copy of EndNote and format it. You can then open the final formatted document in your word processor and move the figure list and table list to wherever you want them.

This workaround sounds quite complicated, but it's really not that bad once you start using it. The EndNote Plus application exists quite happily in a 512K MultiFinder partition, so your three copies occupy about 1.5 megabytes of memory. Obviously, you can't do this on a 1-megabyte Mac Plus, but it works well on an 8megabyte Mac IIcx. Each additional copy of EndNote Plus occupies 321K of hard-disk space plus 5K for the preferences file.

Stephen C. Harmony Los Alamos, NM

Disk First Aid

Disk First Aid contains a hidden command that offers more information about the program's operations. Press Command-S after opening a disk in Disk First Aid, and a scrolling field appears below the normal dialog box. This field displays a list of actions performed by Disk First Aid as they are executed.

Stephen Sayer Ann Arbor, MI

Generic Icons

Generic icons in System 7 are left-handed for DAs but right-handed for applications. If you're a left-handed user, you can copy and paste the left-handed DA icon into other applications by using the Get Info dialog box.

Doug Baer Bala, PA



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No one can give you a better introduction to System 7 than *MacWEEK* columnist Don Crabb. This book covers everything from memory management to working across networks, including customizing the System 7 environment, improving type quality (both on-screen and printed), and developing new system management strategies. Expertly written and illustrated, this guided tour of System 7 is an invaluable companion for both veterans and novices.

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POWER TOOLS HELP FOLDER



Questions, anyone? Here's where to get answers from the experts. Bob LeVitus is the author of the best-selling Dr. Macintosh. Andy Ihnatko is a longtime activist with BCS•Mac. Together, they're ready to answer questions about everything Macintosh.

☑ Write to Help Folder, c/o MacUser, 950 Tower Lane, 18th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404.

Don't want to wait for an answer? Post your question on ZiffNet/Mac, MacUser's online service, and get a reply from Bob, Andy, or one of the other MacUser experts. See the masthead in this issue for instructions on how to sign up.

By Bob LeVitus and Andy Ihnatko

Better Note Pad DA?

Q. I use Apple's Note Pad DA all the time, because it's quick and simple, but I'm running out of room. Is there a way to add more pages to it (maybe by using ResEdit)? Is there a shareware alternative to Note Pad?

John R. Clark

Greeensboro, NC

Bob: I don't know if it's possible to add pages with ResEdit, but there's an excellent shareware notepad DA called FlashWrite II (Andrew Welch, 29 Grey Rocks Road, Wilton, CT 06897; \$15). It lets you create as many pages as you want (see Figure 1), and each page can contain as many as 32,000 characters. Text can be shown in any font, size, or style. FlashWrite II can import and export text files, find text on any page, and count words. I know several people who swear by it.

Strife Begins at 40

Q. I partitioned my Tsunami hard disk with Silverlining, and it works great. But I have a problem: My Mac SE is slowing down, and I get the "Too many files open" dialog box when I really don't have all that many files open. (I use System 6.0.7.)

Also, when I rebuild the desktop by holding



Figure 1: FlashWrite II has features you won't find in Note Pad DA.

* . . . But Were Afraid to Ask

Bohemian religious reformer John Huss' last words, before being burned at the stake in 1415, were these: "O holy simplicity!" Now, I'm no theological scholar, but I draw two conclusions from this. First, it's important that you send us your basic simple questions; as that brave man indicated, they're just as important as our more usual deep technical inquiries. Second, by using that quote in print, I've rendered the \$35 Bartlett's Familiar Quotations I just bought completely tax-deductible.

So if a simple question has been bugging you for eons but you haven't had the courage to ask it, send it on in! And lest you meet the same fate as Huss, we'll say that your question was sent in by the author of another book I'd like to write off on this year's 1040.

Q. I've read references to Macintosh Technical Notes as a source of information. What exactly are they, and how do I get my hands on them? Do I have to work for Apple or something to get them?

Bill Watterson

Scientific Progress Goes Boink!

Andy: The Technical Notes are bloody marvelous. Every time there's a topic that seems to be perplexing the developer community, Apple's DTS (Developer Technical Support) prepares a note that'll set you hip to the whole situation. When bugs are discovered in system software or in ROM code, Technical Notes that fully describe the problems and how to solve them are written

and distributed. When all programmers seem to be asking the same question about how to implement a certain feature in a program, they're referred to a Note that explains the whole nasty procedure in intimate detail. When there's no other way to distribute documentation on certain system software (such as TeachText), it's disseminated as a Technical Note.

Useful things, those Notes. They're written in a light, fun style that makes them pretty easy to digest. Get a load of some of these titles: "I Was a Teenage DMA Junkie," "Space Aliens Ate My Mouse," "Toolbox Karma," and — the wackiest of them all — "CMOS on Macintosh LC PDS" (!). Tech Notes are normally referenced by number. If you wanted a copy of a classic, essential guide to SCSI configuration, you'd ask for TN #134, not "HD Medic & Booting Camp."

The Tech Notes are not designed for mass consumption, but they're a valuable resource. DTS wants its Notes to get the widest distribution possible, so all the more than 300 notes can be downloaded from many on-line services. You can also buy them on-disk or in printed form from APDA.

Even if you don't get ahold of a copy of an actual Technical Note, they're a useful concept. The next time someone asks you a question and you haven't the foggiest, just say, "Oh, DTS put out a Technical Note on that... just give APDA a call, and ask for Note number mumblemumble." Works like a charm.

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POWER TOOLS HELP FOLDER

down the Command and Option keys on startup, it just rebuilds the desktop for the partition that contains my System Folder. Could this be the problem? How do I go about rebuilding the desktops for the other partitions?

Don Jacobs Pahoa, HI

Bob: You need to increase your Mac's open-file count, using either Suitcase II or MasterJuggler. The Mac's default setting is 40 files (documents, applications, font or DA suitcases, and so on). Both Suitcase II and MasterJuggler let you reset this to any value as high as 99.

When you rebuild the desktop, hold the Command and Option keys down longer. If these keys are pressed when the partition is first mounted, you should see the "Are you sure you want to rebuild the desktop" dialog box.

Andy: Yeah, holding down those keys doesn't give a global "Rebuild any and all desktops you may come across" command — it's only saying "Rebuild the desktop of whatever volume is currently being mounted." If you have catlike reflexes, you can even pounce in and slam down those keys while a specific volume's being mounted.

Now about this maximumfiles-open deal. Your problem is actually underallocation of FCBs (file control blocks), which are specified in the boot blocks on your hard drive. This results in an ID -42 error. In English, this means that somewhere in the boot blocks. there's a number that indicates how many files can be open at once. The Mac checks this number at startup and allocates a fixed number of FCBs. So if a program tries to open one file more than the limit, blammo! You get the "Too many files open" dialog box (system error ID -42. Negative of the Meaning of Life . . . ironic, huh?). The term files open is a

bit misleading, however. The number of open files involves not only how many documents you're working with but also all your fonts and DAs, every single application running at the time, and all the little files those applications have open behind the scenes. Programs being as piggy as they are, 40 open files can be exceeded pretty easily.

Solution: Bump that 40-file limit up to something more studly. The programs Bob mentioned can write a new, higher Max Fileroom number to your hard disk's boot blocks, and thus you'll be safe from further ID -42s. Well, at least until you break that limit too! If you don't own either of these programs, get a copy of a freeware program from Peter Helme called Up Your FCBs. Pete has overcome the tremendous handicap of having a name that's only one letter away from that of a Joan Collins ex-husband and has written a spiffy control panel that changes the open-files ceiling as you work. If one fatal file too many is about to be opened, Up Your FCBs automatically increases the maximum number of open files so the additional file can be opened without incident. It's all done in memory rather than by writing to your boot blocks, so it's a bit safer.

Fanned Dance

Q. There's a lovely Laser-Writer IINTX in our office. Is there any way to load more than one sheet at a time manually, without yanking out the entire paper tray? We often need to load four pages of blank letterhead.

Steven Schloss Washington, DC

Andy: This isn't exactly widely known, but you can usually get a laser printer's manual feed to work with multiple pages automatically — if you master a simple technique. Fan your stack of

letterhead slightly, so that the leading edge of the stack looks like a little staircase. Gently slide the stack into the manual feeder, being careful not to disrupt the "staircase," and the printer should feed the pages one at a time.

Depending on your printer, you should be able to reliably feed four to eight pages using this method. Don't make the stack too thick (five pages is the most I could do with an NTX), and don't overdo the fanning, because if the pages are staggered more than a couple of millimeters, they won't feed continuously.

Surviving the Crash

Q. A year or so ago, I read a hint that said to type GO FINDER in the small window that pops up after you press the reset key that's located next to the interrupt key on most Macs. If the Mac returns to the Finder, it's supposedly possible to save an unsaved document. Out of the hundred or so times I've tried it, however, I can recall its working only once. Fortunately, that one time allowed me to reopen my document and save it.

Are there other things that can be typed into this window that can help you return to the document you were working on at the time of the crash and save it from oblivion?

Lee Ruzicka Goleta, CA

Bob: I use a similar trick that seems to work better than GO FINDER. In the event of a crash or a freeze, press the interrupt key. (Technically speaking, when you press the interrupt key, you invoke the mini-, or built-in, debugger.) It usually brings up an empty dialog box that has a caret (>) prompt. If it does, try typing

SM 0 A9F4 <Return>
The 0 in this line and the

The 0 in this line and the next one you'll type are both numeric zero; <Return> means that you should press the Return key once. Type the

characters exactly the way they appear here, including spaces. After the first return, the box fills with characters, but you can still type. Type this:

G 0 <Return>

That's it. If it works, you'll be returned to the Finder. This procedure works only with certain kinds of system errors, and there's no way to tell beforehand whether it's going to work. But if you're hopelessly crashed, you might as well try it.

Using this trick leaves your Mac in an unstable state. If you return to the desktop successfully, save all unsaved documents immediately and then restart your Mac, using the Restart command.

The Mac's restart sequence is infinitely better than a crash—it shuts down the file system in an orderly fashion. Crashing doesn't.

Andy: If you're really determined to recover from as many crashes as possible. check out Crash Barrier (Cassady & Greene, 22734 Portola Drive, Salinas, CA 93908; [408] 484-9228. \$79.95), a nifty new control panel that replaces the normal System Error message with its own friendly dialog box. If your Mac crashes, Crash Barrier pops up instead of the bomb dialog box and gives you a chance of recovering. Although it doesn't work every time, Crash Barrier is more effective than any minidebugger voodoo I know of.

A Hacker a'Borning

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Q. I am a recently inspired programmer who writes in QuickBASIC. I'd like to move to more-capable languages, such as C or Pascal, as I become more proficient. Can one of these languages serve as a stepping stone to the other, even if they have totally different levels of complexity, or would learning them require separate training for each? Also, could you recommend a beginner's

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POWER TOOLS HELP FOLDER

program for either language? Alex Geddie Fonthill, Ontario

Canada

Andy: C and Pascal are the Coke and Pepsi of computer languages; almost all programmers use one or the other. Pascal is a better choice for budding programmers, for two important reasons: It's more like English, so it's easier to read, and more importantly, it forces you to take a highly structured approach to your programming.

C wasn't designed to be pretty (there's even an annual programming contest for people who like to write difficult-to-understand C code). You can write code as loose or tight as you want—C couldn't care less. Is it any wonder that C has become more popular than Pascal? I sure wouldn't

recommend it as Baby's First Programming Language, but if you already have a firm grasp of programming concepts, C isn't too threatening.

The bottom line: Take your pick. They're both big-time professional languages that can handle all your programming needs. On a Mac, the best C and Pascal packages are Symantec's THINK C and THINK Pascal, which offer (in my humble opinion) the easiest-to-use development systems for any computer. Companion products, though, may tip the scales for you one way or the other. Symantec also sells a tutorial called Just Enough Pascal, which runs alongside THINK Pascal. It provides interactive lessons on Pascal and Toolbox programming. On the other hand, if you embrace C, you can use Dave

Mark's excellent book Learn C on the Macintosh. It's a primo primer on C, and it has a gentle introduction to the Toolbox. The book also includes the Thin C compiler, a junior-level edition of THINK C, so you can dig in without having to buy anything else.

Once you've learned these languages, you have to enter the primeval forest known as the Macintosh Toolbox. That's the name for all the Mac's builtin functions for working with menus, windows, buttons, icons, and all the other standard elements of a Mac program. You're going to have to know the Toolbox inside and out; writing Mac software that doesn't use the Toolbox is roughly comparable to bringing a greasy sack of Big Macs to a vegetarian rally (tempting though the thought may be).

For guidance, turn to any one of Mark's wonderful Macintosh Programming Primer books (friendly two-volume tutorials on C or Pascal Toolbox programming) or put yet more dough into Symantec's coffers and buy THINK Reference. This is a wonderful on-line reference: You tell it what you want to do, and it describes how to do it and can even paste the proper generic code into THINK C or THINK Pascal for you.

After you've built up some self-confidence in your chosen language, start amassing volumes of *Inside Macintosh*. Apple's official reference books. These books are highly technical and weren't designed to be friendly tutorials, so I don't recommend them as your first resource, but they look darn nice on the shelf.

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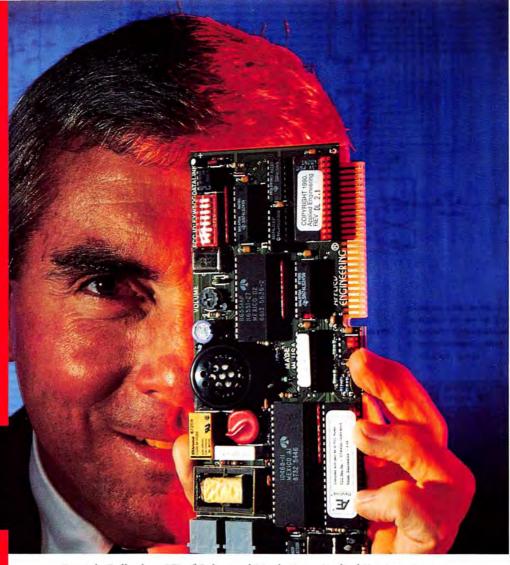
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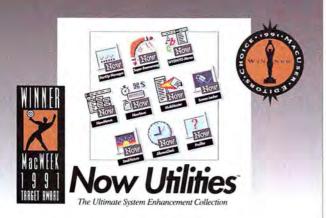
Patrick Gallagher, VP of Sales and Marketing, Applied Engineering

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MacWeek & MacUser's 1991 Utility Product of the Year!



What did it take to get the editors at MacWeek and MacUser to agree on the best Macintosh utility product?

Unprecedented performance, compatibility, and value. In this case, a collection of 10 utilities that does for System 7 what products like SUM and Norton do for hard disks - only more so. As MacUser put it, "Now Utilities will make your Macintosh faster, easier, and more fun to use." For example:

- StartUp Manager™ provides complete extension management Super Boomerang™ finds files and folders instantly WYSIWYG Menus™ groups fonts in their own typefaces

- NowMenus™ makes the Apple Menu hierarchical
- AlarmsClock™ displays the time & reminders in the menubar
- NowSave™ automatically saves files to prevent data loss
- Screen Locker™ keeps confidential information confidential
- MultiMaster™ launches applications and files
- Profiler™ analyzes system configurations
- **DeskPicture™** puts color and B&W pictures on the Desktop

In fact, every utility in the collection is the best of its kind. All of the utilities in the collection are also designed, tested, and guaranteed to work together - and with anything else your customers may have...even System 6. No wonder MacUser gave it a perfect five mouse rating and called it "a must-have for experienced users and novices alike."

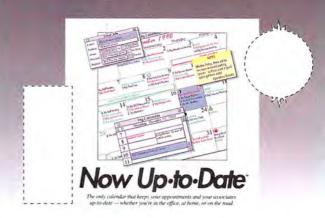


NowMenus saves you a lot of mousing around by creating submenus up to 5 levels deep for anything you put in your Apple Menu items folder and other folders. It also pops up the menubar wherever you click your mouse



Super Boomerang lists your most frequently used files and folders in all Open and Save dialog boxes and in the Apple menu. It also lets you find files by name or content...even if they've been compressed (a file name search on a 100MB hard disk can take only 3 seconds - without requiring an index)

MacWeek & MacUser's 1992 Network Product of the Year?



What will it take to get the editors at MacWeek and MacUser to agree on the best Macintosh network product?

Perhaps Now Up-to-Date™: the only Macintosh application that keeps your appointments and your associates up-to-date whether you're in the office, at home, or on the road.

Organize Your Appointments Now Up-to-Date can schedule a meeting to occur at 9:00AM on the first Tuesday of every month and have it automatically appear on your associates' calendars. Scheduled events can be private, shared, or restricted (i.e., only available to people with the correct password.)

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With all this attention from the press it's not surprising that Now Utilities is already one of the best-selling products on the Macintosh. Now Up-to-Date looks to be just as popular. Call Now at 1-800-237-3611 to learn more about both of these great products, and how they can help you get more out of your Macintosh.



MINIFINDERS

elcome to MiniFinders, your personal buyer's guide. For this special edition on networking and connectivity, *MacUser* editors have carefully selected and evaluated each product, assigning ratings from one to five mice, in half-mouse increments; only previously reviewed products that have received a mouse rating appear in MiniFinders. All the ratings are relative within a category, and because the market is constantly changing, our ratings change too. For detailed product information, look for the original, full-length review in the issue cited in parentheses at the end of each MiniFinder entry. We've indicated all our Eddy (Editors' Choice) Award winners with a **, along with the year they were recognized for their excellence. You can download the full-length product reviews from the back-issue libraries of ZiffNet/Mac (Zmac), our on-line service.

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NETWORKING & CONNECTIVITY

3Com EtherLink/NB \$\$\$1/2

This NuBus Ethernet card offers average performance. Version 1.1 reviewed. Requires NuBuscapable Mac. \$595. 3Com, 3165 Kifer Rd., Santa Clara, CA 95052. (800) 638-3266 or (408) 764-5000. (June '90)

3Com EtherLink/SE tttt

This Ethernet interface has very fast SE client, server, and raw performance. Version 1.0 reviewed. Requires Mac SE. \$595. 3Com, 3165 Kifer Rd., Santa Clara, CA 95052. (800) 638-3266 or (408) 764-5000. (June '90)

AccessPC tttt/2 AccessPC is an INIT that lets the Mac desktop mount DOS and Mac floppy disks, as well as PC-compatible removable cartridges with higher capacities. Assigns Macintosh Type and Creator codes to MS-DOS files, which lets specified Mac applications open them automatically without going through the Apple File Exchange utility. Works with DOS floppy drives from Apple, PLI, and Kennect. Includes universal Multi-Driver (an INIT and control panel) to help with PC drives that have trouble mounting on the Mac desktop. Works well in combination with Insignia Solutions' SoftPC running PC applications on a Mac hard-disk drive. Version 1.1 reviewed. Requires any Mac with FDHD SuperDrive or external DOS floppy drive or removable-cartridge drive. \$99. Insignia Solutions, 526 Clyde Ave., Mountain View, CA 94043. (415) 694-7600. (Aug '91)

AlisaTalk ttt

AlisaTalk, a file server for networked Macs, provides numerous features for VAX, DOS, and Mac interoperability. Slow for AFPfile sharing and requires knowledge of VMS. Version 3.3 reviewed. Requires VAX. 10-user license, \$1,500; license for unlimited users, \$4,700. Alisa Systems, 221 E. Walnut St., Ste. 175, Pasadena, CA 91101. (818) 792-9474. (June '91)

Apple EtherTalk NB Card **‡‡‡‡**An excellent performer in filetransfer tests. Has 3Com hardware.
Good raw performance. Requires
NuBus. \$424. Apple Computer,
Inc., 20525 Mariani Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014. (800) 776-2333
or (408) 996-1010. (June '90)

AppleShare \$\$\$1/2

AppleShare is inexpensive fileserver software from Apple. Fast, and easy to configure and administer. Lets network users protect files from other users at the folder level. Permits setup and administration from Macintosh, provides choice of LocalTalk or Ethernet connection, and supports AppleShare-PC. Version reviewed did not support VAX clients and allowed maximum of 50 simultaneous users. Version 2.0 reviewed. Version 3.0 shipping. Requires a dedicated Mac Plus or later and a hard-disk drive. \$799. Apple Computer, Inc., 20525 Mariani Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014. (800) 776-2333 or (408) 996-1010. (Nov '91)

AppleTalk Internet Router

This software router can create a large internet with EtherTalk and TokenTalk. Doesn't support dialin access, but offers support dialin access, but offers support for AppleTalk Phase 2, mixed Phase 1 and Phase 2, and token-ring networks. Cabling can be thick coaxial, thin coaxial, or twisted-pair. Quality of technical support depends heavily on locating a knowledgeable Apple dealer. Version 2.0 reviewed. \$399. Apple Computer, Inc., 20525 Mariani Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014. (800) 776-2333 or (408) 996-1010. (Apr '91)

APT Communications ComTalk 111

This EtherTalk/LocalTalk router is a speed demon, available in the widest variety of configurations and prices. APT Internet Manager 5.0 software is powerful but hard to understand. Router code is in upgradable ROM, and the CPU is a Motorola 68000. Can handle as many as six LocalTalk networks but only one EtherTalk network. Offers support for AppleTalk Phase 2 or mixed Phase 1 and Phase 2. Version ComTalk HX shipping. \$7,000 with one Ethernet and six LocalTalk ports; other configurations, \$3,000 to \$9,000. APT Communications, Inc., 9607 Dr. Perry Rd., Ijamsville, MD 21754. (301) 831-1182. (Apr '91)

Asanté MacCon+ 30i ET

\$\$\$\$1/2

This PDS card offers 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Has thicknet AUI port, diagnostic software, and link-integrity LED. Doesn't auto-configure. Five-year warranty. Requires Mac SE/30 or Ilsi. \$299. Asanté Technologies, Inc., 404 Tasman Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089. (800) 662-9686 or (408) 752-8388. (Sept '91)

Asanté MacCon+ IIET 1511/2
This NuBus card provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port, diagnostic software, and link-integrity LED. Doesn't auto-configure. Five-year warranty. Requires Mac II series. \$299. Asanté Technologies, Inc., 404 Tasman Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089. (800) 662-9686 or (408) 752-8388. (Sept '91)

Asanté MacCon+ LC tttt

MacCon+ LC is a PDS card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes BNC port, diagnostic software, and link-integrity LED. Autoconfiguring, FPU socket on board. Five-year warranty. Requires Mac LC. \$379. Asanté Technologies, Inc., 404 Tasman Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089. (800) 662-9686 or (408) 752-8388. (Sept '91)

Asanté MacCon+ SE 30iE

This Ethernet device in an SE/30 is a good choice for use in an SE/30 or IIsi acting as a file server. Formerly called MacCon+ SE 30iE. Fastraw performance. \$299. Asanté Technologies, Inc., 404 Tasman Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089, (800) 662-9686 or (408) 752-8388. (June '90)

Asanté MacCon+ SE/E ttt

This inexpensive Ethernet device provides very good performance. Requires Mac SE. \$299. Asanté Technologies, Inc., 404 Tasman Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089. (800) 662-9686 or (408) 752-8388. (June '90)

Aspects tttt

Aspects is the first real groupware product for the Mac. As with multiuser databases, Aspects provides several users with simultaneous access to multiple documents (limited by available RAM). Word-processing, drawing, and painting modes are provided, but there's no database or spreadsheet mode, outliner, or color support. Operates on LocalTalk, Ethernet, or token-ring networks via AppleTalk or can use 2,400-bps modems. Version 1.0 reviewed. Version 1.02 shipping. Requires Mac Plus or later; hard-disk drive recommended. Per user, \$299; 5 users, \$895; 10 users, \$1,295; educational discounts available. Group Technologies, 1408 N. Fillmore St., Ste. 10, Arlington, VA 22201. (800) 476-8781 or (703) 528-1555. (June '91) ★ '90 Eddy

Avatar LanWay E-10T Direct Slot **ttt**

The LanWay E-10T Direct Slot is a PDS card that offers 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Has thicknet AUI port and link-integrity LED, but no diagnostic software. Auto-configuring. Requires Mac SE/30. \$425. Avatar Corp. (Tri-Data Div.), 3270 Scot Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054. (408) 727-3270. (Sept '91)

Avatar LanWay E-10T NuBus

The LanWay E-10T NuBus is a NuBus card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port and link-integrity LED. Lacks diagnostic software. Auto-configuring. Skimpy manual. Requires Mac II series. \$345. Avatar Corp. (Tri-Data Div.), 3270 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054. (408) 727-3270. (Sept '91)

Cabletron E5000 \$\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}\]
This Ethernet device is a good choice for use in an SE/30 acting as a file server. Optional fiber-optics transceiver. \$699 to \$949, depending on configuration.

MINIFINDERS

Cabletron Systems, 35 Industrial Way, P.O. Box 6257, Rochester, NH 03867. (603) 332-9400. (June

Cabletron E6000 tttt

This Ethernet interface offers excellent performance. Difficult to switch cable types. Has fiber-optic option. Requires NuBus-capable Mac. \$699 to \$949, depending on configuration. Cabletron Systems, 35 Industrial Way, P.O. Box 6257, Rochester, NH 03867. (603) 332-9400. (June '90)

Cabletron Systems E6010 DNI

The E6010 DNI is a NuBus card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port, excellent diagnostic software, and link-integrity LED. Doesn't auto-configure. Good manual. Requires Mac II series. \$699. Cabletron Systems, 35 Industrial Way, P.O. Box 6257, Rochester, NH 03867. (603) 332-9400. (Sept '91)

Carbon Copy/Mac ttt1/2

This screen-sharing program lets you access another networked Mac for technical support, training, or file management. A guest Mac can control only one host Mac, but multiple guests can observe a host. Supports network as well as modem connections in the same package. Can transfer files among Macs. Provides the security feature of assigning different "classes" of users. Not color-ca-pable. Version 2.0 reviewed. Single user, \$99; per AppleTalk zone, \$299. Microcom, Inc., 500 River Ridge Dr., Norwood, MA 02062. (800) 822-8224 or (617) 551-1000. (Dec '91)
Cayman GatorBox \$\$\$\frac{1}{2}\$

This EtherTalk/LocalTalk hardware router offers many gateway features, including TCP/IP connectivity. No battery backup. Supports AppleTalk Phase 2, mixed Phase 1 and 2 networks, SNMP and other protocols, but only one LocalTalk port is provided. Network-security features provide configuration protection and resource hiding, including zone, printer, and device filtering. Good setup information. With optional GatorShare software, a UNIX host looks like an Apple-Share server. Unlimited free technical support. \$2,795; GatorShare software, \$1,995. Cayman Systems, 26 Landsdowne St., Cambridge, MA 02139. (617) 494-1999. (Apr '91)

Cayman GatorCard E/II tttt1/2 This Ethernet interface is very fast. Employs top-notch Racal Inter-Lan hardware. Requires NuBus-capable Mac, \$449. Cayman Systems, 26 Landsdowne St., Cambridge, MA 02139. (617) 494-1999. (June '90)

cc:Mail Mac ttt1/2

cc:Mail is an E-mail application featuring keyboard loading of recipient names, message prioritizing, multiple enclosures, return receipts, reply and forwarding, storage folders, and archiving. Good interface. PC-to-Mac VGAgraphics-display translation. Requires PC for setup, administration, and server-to-server traffic. No DA for messaging. Sends messages to multiple recipients slowly. Allows as many as 20 file enclosures and as many as 65,000 users per server. Version 1.22 reviewed. Requires Mac Plus or later, System 6.03 or later, and AppleShare server. Platform Pack, \$495; 8 users, \$195; 25 users, \$595, cc:Mail, 2141 Landings Dr., Mountain View, CA 94043. (800) 448-2500 or (415) 961-8800. (Mar

Compatible Systems Ether•Route \$\$\$\$

This hardware EtherTalk/Local-Talk router is easy to set up and use. Offers fast, solid performance. Current software is Ether-Route Manager 1.7.0. Router code is in upgradable ROM, and CPU is an 80C188. Can handle no more than two LocalTalk networks and only one EtherTalk network. Offers support for AppleTalk Phase 2 or mixed Phase 1 and Phase 2. Difficult to change cabling-type switch. Lacks TCP/IP support but an Ether Route/TCP version is also available. Unlimited, free technical support. \$1,495. Compatible Systems Corp., P.O. Box 17220, Boulder, CO 80308. (800) 356-0283 or (303) 444-9532. (Apr

Compatible Systems Ether2 TP tttt

This is a NuBus card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port, diagnostic software, and linkintegrity LED. Doesn't autoconfigure. Requires Mac II series. \$295. Compatible Systems Corp., P.O. Box 17220, Boulder, CO 80308. (800) 356-0283 or (303)

444-9532. (Sept '91) DAL (Data Access Language)

DAL is an API (application-programming interface) for sophisticated client/server database access. Server operating systems include IBM MVS and VM as well as VAX/VMS. Databasemanagement systems include DB2, Ingres, Oracle, Rdb/VMS, SQL/DS, Sybase, Informix, and IBM MVS and VM. Offers server independence but is slower than Oracle's SOL*Net or Tech-Gnosis' SequeLink. Version 1.2 shipping. Free with System 7.0; Client Toolkit, \$695; server, \$5,000 to \$20,000. Apple Computer, Inc., 20525 Mariani Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014. (800) 776-2333 or (408) 996-1010. (Jan '91)

DataClub Classic ###1/2

DataClub is distributed-file-server software with the look and feel of

a dedicated AppleShare server. Requires an AppleTalk Phase 1 network or Phase 2 with only a router present. Lets users combine folders from different Macs into one logical volume and move folders of data among Macs without changing the appearance of the combined volume. Can support as many as 76 users, each using a control panel to manage access. System-7-savvy. Incomplete manual. Version 1.1.1 reviewed. Version 2.0 shipping. Requires Mac Plus or later with at least 2 MB of RAM and System 6.03 or later. \$175; 3-user package, \$395; 10-user package, \$795. International Business Software. 1270 Oakmead Pkwy., Ste. 314, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. (800) 733-2822 or (408) 522-8000. (Sept

David Systems Ether-T Mac

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This NuBus card provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Lacks thicknet AUI port, diagnostic software, and linkintegrity LED. Two-year warranty. Requires Mac II series. \$350. David Systems, Inc., 701 E. Evelyn Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086. (408) 720-6867. (Sept '91)

Dayna DaynaPORT E/II-T

the DaynaPORT E/II-T is a NuBus card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port, limited diagnostic software, and link-integrity LED. Doesn't auto-configure. Lifetime war-ranty. Requires Mac II series and System 6.03 or later. \$299. Dayna Communications, Inc., 50 S. Main St., Salt Lake City, UT 84144.(801)531-0600.(Sept '91) Dayna DaynaPORT E/LC-T

####1/2

This PDS card offers 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Lacks additional ports. Comes with diagnostic software and linkintegrity LED. FPU socket on board. Lifetime warranty. Requires Mac LC. \$299; with math coprocessor, \$449. Dayna Communications, Inc., 50 S. Main St., Salt Lake City, UT 84144. (801) 531-0600. (Sept '91) Dove FastNet SE \$\$\$

This Ethernet interface has average performance. Good diagnostics. Version 2.2 shipping. Requires Mac SE. \$299. Dove Computer Corp., 1200 N. 23rd St., Wilmington, NC 28405. (800) 788-3683 or (919) 763-7918. (June '90)

EMAC Speedlink II ttt

This NuBus Ethernet card has average performance. Good software. Version "E" hardware, 2.6 software shipping. Requires Nu-Bus-capable Mac and System 6.03 or later. \$449. EMAC (Everex Systems), 48431 Milmont Dr., Fremont, CA 94538. (800) 6283837 or (510) 498-1111. (June

EMAC SpeedLink/II TP ttt1/2

This NuBus card has 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port, NCSA Telnet, diagnostic software, linkintegrity LED, and auto-configu-ration. Two-year warranty. Version "E" hardware, 2.6 software shipping. Requires NuBus-capable Mac and System 6.03 or later. \$449. EMAC (Everex Systems), 48431 Milmont Dr., Fremont, CA 94538. (800) 628-3837 or (510) 498-1111. (Sept '91)

EMAC SpeedLink/SE30 TP

ttt1/2 The SpeedLink/SE30 TP is a PDS card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port, diagnostic software, and link-integrity LED. Auto-configuring. Confusing manual. Two-year warranty. Version "E" hardware, 2.6 software shipping. Requires Mac SE/30 and System 6.03 or later. \$449. EMAC (Everex Systems), 48431 Milmont Dr., Fremont, CA 94538. (800) 628-3837 or (510) 498-1111. (Sept '91)

Engage SynchRouter/LTi

This hardware/software router combination is fast and simple to use. Provides limited statistics on router traffic and has no automatic backup link. Supports LocalTalk and dial-up asynchronous links as well as synchronous DDS (Digital Data Service), ISDN, and T1 links. Maximum speed is 500 Kbps. Interfaces include RS-232, RS-449, and V.35 but not EtherTalk. \$2,495. Engage Communication, Inc., 9053 Soquel Dr., Ste. 201, Aptos, CA 95003. (408) 688-1021. (Jan '92)

EtherPeek tttt This network-protocol-analyzer software can create simulated network traffic for analysis and has many useful features. Modular design adapts well to new Ethernet cards and protocols, but performance suffers, because of complex application design. Features include sophisticated use of filters, triggers, and alarms. Supports AppleTalk, ARP, SNMP, IPX, DECnet, XNS, and IPTalk protocols. Version 1.04 reviewed. \$795. AG Group, 2540 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

(510) 937-7900. (Feb '92) Farallon PhoneNET (Mac II) Card for Ethernet ttt

This NuBus card provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port and link-integrity LED. Lacks diagnostic software. Auto-configuring. Requires Mac II series. \$249; 10-user pack, \$2,440. Farallon Computing, Inc., 2000 Powell St., Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608. (510) 596-9000. (Sept

Farallon PhoneNET (SE/30) Card for Ethernet \$\$\pm\$\$\pm\$\$\pm\$\$\pm\$\$\pm\$\$\pm\$

The PhoneNET (SE/30) Card for Ethernet is a PDS card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port and link-integrity LED. Lacks diagnostic software. Auto-configuring. Requires Mac SE/30. \$249; 10-user pack, \$2,440. Farallon Computing, Inc., 2000 Powell St., Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608. (510) 596-9000. (Sept '91)

Flash tttt1/2

Flash is a DA/INIT combination that transfers files in the background, with or without Multi-Finder. Uses Finder folders to send and receive files. Has chat capability. Also lets you create a group folder, which sends copies of a file to everyone in a group. Setting its many options is unnecessarily complex. Good performance. Version 1.0 reviewed. Version 1.1 shipping. \$199.95 per zone. Beagle Bros, 6215 Ferris Sq., Ste. 100, San Diego, CA 92121. (619) 452-5500. (Sept '90)

GraceLAN 1515 GraceLAN is network-management software that collects detailed information about connected Macs. Can also discern hardware and software configuration of DOS-compatible PCs on the network. Can draw network diagram but has no internal database manager. Version 2.0 reviewed. 50 users, \$495; 200 or more users, \$1,195. Technology Works, 4030 Braker Ln. W., Austin, TX 78759, (800)688-7466 or (512) 794-8533. (Oct '91)

InBox Plus ttt1/2 This E-mail system runs on any HFS-compliant file server. Servers can be Macs, PCs, Sun workstations, VAXes, or other platforms. Supports AppleShare, NetWare, 3+, LAN Manager, and SitkaTOPS. Clients can be Macs or PCs. There are only Memo and Phone message forms, Supports mailboxes, groups, passwords, and storage boxes, but usercustomizable features are very limited. Messages are sorted by subject, sender, status, or date. Excellent manual. Allows unlimited number of file enclosures. Maximum number of users per server is 250. Version 3.0G reviewed. Requires Mac Plus or later and System 4.2 or later. Up to 50 users, \$995; up to 100 users, \$1,995; up to 250 users, \$5,995. Sitka Corp., 950 Marina Village Pkwy., Alameda, CA 94501. (800) 445-8677 or (510) 769-9669. (Mar '92) * '86 Eddy

Inter•Poll \$\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}\text{This simple, reliable network-administration tool is suitable for small LocalTalk networks (5 to 20 nodes). Doesn't support Ether-Talk but can create simulated network traffic for analysis. Has

excellent manual. No support for filters, charts, or error management. \$129. Apple Computer, Inc., 20525 Mariani Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014. (800) 776-2333 or (408) 996-1010. (Feb '92)

LapLink Mac III ttt/2 LapLink Mac III is a Mac-to-DOS and Mac-to-Mac file-transfer program that lets you have control from either computer. Version 3.0 has a revised interface. Uses a special cable to provide 750-Kbps transfer. It has an INIT that gives you background access to a remote Mac's files even when LapLink isn't running. You can protect the Mac globally for read/write or read-only access. Directory sortand-search capability is provided, along with display filters to show and hide files. Version 3.0 reviewed. Version 3.2 shipping. Requires Mac Plus or later and System 5.0 or later. \$149.95. Traveling Software, Inc., 18702

483-8088. (Sept '90) LocalPeek **‡‡‡**

This network-protocol-analyzer software can create simulated network traffic for analysis and has many useful features. Supports Apple Talk and SNMP. Features include use of filters, triggers, and alarms. Suitable for novices willing to learn basic protocol analysis. Version 1.01 reviewed. \$495. AG Group, 2540 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. (510) 937-7900. (Feb '92)

North Creek Pkwy., Bothell, WA 98011. (800) 343-8080 or (206)

LocalSwitch #### 1/2

This 16-port packet-switching LocalTalk hub can't match Ethernet speed but provides a significant performance boost for small. busy AppleTalk networks. Unlike a Local Talk router, doesn't create a new zone to isolate some network traffic. Can be a cost-effective alternative to a Ethernet network and its required hardware. Best suited to networks with nodes sharing resources or easily localized traffic. May not help with heavy file transfer or file-server performance. Version 1.05 of SwitchMonitor software reviewed. \$3,495; optional patch panel, \$395. Tribe Computer Works, 1195 Park Ave., Ste. 211, Emery-ville, CA 94608. (510) 547-3874. (Dec '91)

LRU Systems Nodem ttt

The Nodem is a SCSI adapter that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Lacks additional ports or diagnostic software. Has link-integrity LED. Can be connected anywhere in a SCSI chain. Requires Mac SE or later. \$495. LRU Systems, Inc., 4 Shratton Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070. (415) 594-9697. (Sept '91)

MacProducts Magic EtherNet

This NuBus card provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port. Lacks diagnostic software and link-integrity LED. Doesn't auto-configure. Lifetime warranty. Requires Mac II series. \$199. MacProducts USA, Inc., 8303 Mopac Expy., Ste. 218, Austin, TX 78759. (800) 622-3475 or (512) 343-9441. (Sept '91)

MacTOPS \$11/2

MacTOPS is file-server software designed to network Macs to other computer platforms. Slow for large networks but supports com-munication with DOS-compatibles and UNIX machines. Files and subdirectories are accessed transparently as if they were Mac folders. MacTOPS handles file translation among platforms. Print spooling and InBox E-mail software are bundled. Serialized. Supports AppleTalk, FlashTalk, EtherTalk, and TokenTalk. Unlimited number of simultaneous users. Not AFP-compliant. Version 3.0 reviewed. Version 3.1 shipping. Requires Mac Plus or later and System 6.0.3 or later. \$299 per node; 3-user pack, \$399; no site license available. Sitka Corp., 950 Marina Village Pkwy., Alameda, CA 94501. (800) 445-8677 or (510) 769-9669. (June '91) * '87 Eddy

MacWorkStation tttt

MacWorkStation is a development environment. It is also a communications program that accesses custom mainframe applications through the Mac interface. Modular design allows expansion. Mac II and MultiFinder friendly. Version 3.0 reviewed. Single-user license, \$100; site licenses available. Apple Software Licensing, 20525 Mariani Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014. (408) 974-4667. (Oct '88)

Magnalink 3000 CB tttt

This hardware bridge is fast, offers excellent data-compression capability, and provides comprehensive diagnostics. Provides automatic secondary dial-up. No LocalTalk interface. Allows dial-up asynchronous link and supports synchronous DDS (digital data service), ISDN, and T1 links. Maximum speed is 2.048 Mbps. Supports RS-232, RS-449, V.35, and EtherTalk interfaces. \$7,900. Magnalink Communications, 63 Nahatan St., Norwood, MA 02062. (617) 255-9400. (Jan '92)

Microsoft Mail ####1/2

This E-mail system offers excellent server architecture and performance. Its efficient single-instance storage scheme is used for messages (each with unlimited number of enclosed images, text files, or sounds) to multiple addresses. Offers dial-in remote access and gateways to remote sites. Third-party products can also add links to QuickMail, VAX minicomputers, WANs, and MCI Mail. Features include image-display

and voice-mail support plus interapplication communication with Excel and Word. Clean, easily customized, no-frills interface. Simple to install, maintain, and use. Can'tretrieve previously sent messages. Version 3.0 reviewed. Server and each user require Mac Plus or later with hard-disk drive and System 6.0.3 or later. Mail Server software, \$395; 5 users, \$395; 20 users, \$1,349; 100 users, \$5,500. Microsoft Corp., One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052. (800) 426-9400 or (206) 882-8080. (Mar '92) * '87 Eddy National Semiconductor

National Semiconductor EtherNODE•16 NB-T **ttt**½

The EtherNODE-16 NB-T is a NuBus card that has 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port and good diagnostic software. Lacks link-integrity LED. Doesn't autoconfigure. Excellent manual. Fiveyear warranty. Requires Mac II series. \$399. National Semiconductor, 2900 Semiconductor Dr., P.O. Box 58090, Santa Clara, CA 95052. (800) 538-8510 or (408) 721-5020. (Sept '91) National Semiconductor

EtherNODE•32 SE/30-T \$\$\$\frac{1}{2}\$

This PDS card offers 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port and diagnostic software. Lacks linkintegrity LED. Doesn't autoconfigure, and installer is outdated. Excellent networking tutorial and manual. Five-year warranty. Requires Mac SE/30. \$449. National Semiconductor, 2900 Semiconductor Dr., P.O. Box 58090, Santa Clara, CA 95052. (800) 538-8510 or (408) 721-5020. (Sept '91)

NetMinder Ethernet \$\$\$\$

This network-protocol-analyzer software has an intuitive, clean interface and excellent on-line help. Can't create simulated network traffic for analysis, and doesn't support cut-and-paste. Features include use of filters, triggers, and threshold alarms. Supports AppleTalk, TCP/IP, NetWare, XNS, DECnet, Bridge/3Com protocols. Version 1.2 reviewed. \$495. Neon Software, Inc., 1009 Oak Hill Rd., Ste. 203, Lafayette, CA 94549. (510) 283-9771. (Feb '92)

NetMinder LocalTalk \$\$\$\$
This network-protocol-analyzer software has an intuitive, clean interface and excellent on-line help. Can't create simulated network traffic for analysis and doesn't support SNMP. Features include use of filters, triggers, and threshold alarms. Supports AppleTalk protocols only. Version 1.0 reviewed. \$395. Neon Software, Inc., 1009 Oak Hill Rd., Ste. 203, Lafayette, CA 94549. (510) 283-9771. (Feb '92)

NetWare for Macintosh \$\$\$\\\^2\! NetWare for Macintosh lets Macs on LocalTalk or Ethernet networks connect to a NetWare file server, using AppleShare client software. Difficult PC-based setup and administration. Extremely fast performance. Provides connectivity to DOS, OS/2, Windows, and UNIX platforms. Expensive and not recommended for small Maconly networks but excellent for Mac users needing access to non-AppleTalk PC networks already attached to NetWare servers. Maximum number of simultaneous Mac clients is 100 (out of 250 clients). Has powerful data-security features. Version 3.0 reviewed. Requires 80386- or 80486-based PC for server, another PC for administration, and Netware 3.11 file-server software. 20 users, \$895; 100 users, \$1,995; NetWare 3.11, \$3,495 for 20 users, \$6,995 for 100 users. Novell, Inc., 122 E. 1700 S., Provo, UT 84606. (800) 453-1267 or (801) 429-7000. (Nov '91) ★ '88 Eddy Network Resources

Mac1000TP ttt

The Mac 1000TP is a NuBus card that provides 10BASE-TEthernet networking capability. Lacks additional ports or diagnostic software. Includes link-integrity LED. Three-year warranty. Version 2.3 Installer software shipping. Requires Mac II series. \$295. Network Resources Corp. (NRC), 736 S. Hill View Dr., Milpitas, CA 95035. (408) 263-8100. (Sept '91) Network SuperVisor \$\$\$\\frac{1}{2}

Network SuperVisor is networkmanagement software that collects detailed information about connected Macs. Slow performance and complex interface but has beefy internal database manager with sophisticated analytical capabilities. Can't discern configuration of DOS-compatible PCs on the network. Version 1.0.6 reviewed. 25 users, \$495; 50 users; \$795; unlimited users, \$1,295. CSG Technologies, 530 William Penn Pl., Ste. 329, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. (412) 471-7170. (Oct '91)

performance for an Ethernet interface. Requires Mac Plus or later. \$495. Nuvotech, Inc., 2015 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965. (800) 468-8683 or (415) 331-7815. (June '90)

Nuvotech NuvoLink II-T \$\$\$\$ This NuBus card provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port and link-integrity LED. Lacks diagnostic software. Doesn't autoconfigure. Five-year warranty. Requires Mac II series. \$395. Nuvotech, Inc., 2015 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965. (800) 468-8683 or (415) 331-7815. (Sept

Nuvotech NuvoLink SC-T ttt1/2 The NuvoLink SC-T is a SCSI adapter that provides 10BASE-T

Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port, diagnostic software, and link-integrity LED. Doesn't auto-configure. Must be at the end of SCSI chain. Five-year warranty. Requires Mac SE or later. \$549. Nuvotech, Inc., 2015 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965. (800) 468-8683 or (415) 331-7815. (Sept '91)

Oracle for Macintosh \$\$\$\$ Oracle for Macintosh is more a development tool kit than an enduser product. It allows the creation of powerful front-end Mac applications that can access Oracle databases on mainframes and minicomputers. Includes Hyper-Card XCMDs. Version 1.1 reviewed. Version 2.0 shipping. Requires Mac Plus or later with 2 MB of RAM, System 6.03 or later, and a hard disk with 5 MB of free space. NetWorkStation version requires SQL*Net for Macintosh (\$299). Single-user version, \$299; NetWorkStation version, \$299; database version, \$699. Oracle Corp., 500 Oracle Pkwy., Red-wood Shores, CA 94065. (800) 345-3267 or (415) 506-7000.

(June '89) PacerShare \$\$\$1/2

A file server for networked Macs, PacerShare was the fastest among VAX servers we tested. Extra functionality comes at a high price. Maximum number of simultaneous users is 500. Supports Ethernet but not LocalTalk. Requires VAX. 10 users, \$2,100; 20 users, \$3,750. Pacer Software, 7911 Herschel Ave., Ste. 402, La Jolla, CA 92037. (619) 454-0565. (June '91)

Pathworks for Macintosh \$\$\$ Pathworks, a file server for networked Macs, offers self-install-ing, extensive VAX connectivity. Slow for AFP file sharing and crashed when 20 clients were connected (in our tests), although the number of simultaneous users is theoretically unlimited. Bundled with Mail for Macintosh, Mac-Terminal 3.0, and MacX. Supports Ethernet but not LocalTalk. Can't be administered from a Mac. Version 1.0 reviewed. Requires VAX. Client license, \$308; media and documentation, \$493. Digital Equipment Corp., 146 Main St., Maynard, MA 01754. (508) 493-5111. (June '91) pcMACTERM II \$\$\$\$\$

pcMACTERM II lets your Mac take control of a DOS machine from your keyboard. Allows DOS files to be printed through the Mac. Version 1.1 reviewed. Version 3.11c shipping. Requires Mac Plus or later (with System 6.0.3 or later and printer) and PC with DOS 2.0 or later and at least 256K of RAM. \$179 for pcMACTERM II; \$395 for pcMACTERM/Network. Dynamic Microprocessor Associates (DMA), 1776 E. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY 11743.

(516) 462-0440. (Jan '89)

PhoneNET Connector Series

300 tttt PhoneNET is an AppleTalkcompatible network that can extend up to 3,000 feet. Unused preinstalled phone cabling can be used for the network. \$59.95 per node; 10-user pack, \$395. Farallon Computing, Inc., 2000 Powell St., Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608. (510) 596-9000. (Dec '86) ★ '87 Eddy

PhoneNET Liaison \$\$\$

This software-only WAN router can double as a local router. Slower than a hardware router (speed is limited by modem). Easy installation plus dial-up and leased-voiceline capabilities. Can create a large internet with EtherTalk and TokenTalk, using third-party cards. Offers support for Apple-Talk Phase 2, mixed Phase I and Phase 2, and token-ring networks. Cabling can be thick coaxial, thin coaxial, or twisted-pair. Excellent technical support. Worth considering if you already have a dedicated AppleShare server or local and remote routers. Version 3.01 reviewed. \$395. Farallon Computing, Inc., 2000 Powell St., Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608. (510) 596-9000. (Jan '92) ★ '88 Eddy

PhoneNET StarController

The StarController distributes AppleTalk signals to devices on a network and provides networkmanagement and troubleshooting capabilities. It's very reliable, with excellent documentation and technical support. Requires PhoneNET StarController wiring kit. \$1,295. Farallon Computing, Inc., 2000 Powell St., Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608. (510) 596-9000. (May '90)

QuickMail is an E-mail package with many superior features. Macs and PCs can be used as clients. New simplified addressing scheme boosts performance in a busy environment and saves disk space on server. Supports voicemail and real-time conferencing. Has powerful user tools and customizable message forms. Highly configurable by network manager but slightly temperamental on large, heavily used networks. Maximum number of file enclosures is 16, and maximum number of users per server is 3,200. Version 2.5 reviewed. Requires Mac Plus or later and System 6.0.3 or later. 5 users, \$399; 10 users, \$599; 50 users, \$2,499; 100 users, \$4,699. CE Software, Inc., 1801 Industrial Cir., P.O. Box 65580, West Des Moines, IA 50265. (800) 523-7638 or (515) 224-1995. (Mar

QuickShare 2.0 ttt1/2

QuickShare 2.0 (formerly sold by Compatible Systems) connects your Macintosh to a PC via SCSI, enabling the Mac to access files on a PC or a PC network. Filetransfer software provides generic text and graphic translations. Version 2.0 reviewed. Requires DOS 3.0 or later. \$695. SeeColor Corp., 34004 16th Ave. S., Federal Way, WA 98003. (206) 874-9080. (Oct '89)

Racal InterLan MacConnect tttt1/2

This Ethernet interface card is fast. Lacks diagnostic software, Requires NuBus-capable Mac. \$495. Racal InterLan, 155 Swanson Rd., Boxborough, MA 01719. (800) 526-8255 or (508) 263-9929. (June '90)

Racal InterLan MacConnect NIA310-10BT \$\$\$1/2

This NuBus card provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Lacks additional ports. Includes diagnostic software and link-integrity LED. Lifetime warranty. Requires Mac II series. \$495. Racal InterLan, 155 Swanson Rd., Boxborough, MA 01719. (800) 526-8255 or (508) 263-9929. (Sept '91)

Radar tttt

Radar is network-management software that collects detailed information about connected Macs. Offers rapid performance and has a good interface. Has built-in printer utility but no internal database manager. Doesn't discern applications or DOS-compatible PCs on the network. Version 1.0 reviewed. Unlimited users, \$499. Sonic Systems, Inc., 21211 Rainbow Dr., Cupertino, CA 95014. (408) 725-1400. (Oct '91)

Send Express tttt Send Express is a DA/INIT combination that sends files or Clipboard contents in the background, with or without MultiFinder, Extremely smooth background operation compensates for sluggish performance. User interface is too complex for those who need to transfer files frequently. Version 1.0 reviewed. Version 2.1 ship-ping. Requires Mac Plus or later and System 6.03 or later. 3 users, \$79; unlimited users per zone, \$179. Gizmo Technologies, P.O. Box 14177, Fremont, CA 94539. (510) 623-7899. (Sept '90)

SequeLink ###

An API (application-programming interface), SequeLink provides a faster alternative to Apple's DAL but is difficult to use. Server operating systems supported in-clude VAX/VMS and SCO UNIX/ XENIX. Supported databasemanagement systems include Ingres, Oracle, Rdb/VMS, Sybase, and Interbase. Client operating systems supported include the Mac OS, Windows 3.0, and OS/2. Per user, \$695; server, \$4,995. TechGnosis, Inc., One Park Place, 621 N.W. 53rd St., #340, Boca Raton, FL 33487. (800) 275-7565 or (407) 997-6687. (Jan '91)

Shiva EtherGate 111/2

This router is a hardware/software combination that includes an Ethernet interface. Has incomplete RS-232 interface in synchronous mode and has no automatic backup link. Can double as a local router. Besides LocalTalk and dial-up asynchronous links, supports synchronous DDS, ISDN, and T1 links. Maximum speed is 64 Kbps. Inadequate documentation. Has no auto-connect or -reconnect. Uses InterNet Manager application (included) or control panel. \$1,899. Shiva Corp., One Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142. (800) 458-3550 or (617) 252-6300. (Jan '92)

Shiva EtherPort IIT ttt1/2 Shiva's EtherPort IIT is a NuBus card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port, diagnostic software, and link-integrity LED. Doesn't auto-configure. Requires Mac II series, \$299. Shiva Corp., One Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142. (800) 458-3550 or (617) 252-6300. (Sept '91)

Shiva EtherPort SE/30 \$\$\$ This Ethernet networking device delivers average performance. Lacks diagnostic software. Requires Mac SE/30. \$595. Shiva Corp., One Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142. (800) 458-3550 or (617) 252-6300. (June '90)

Shiva FastPath ttt This hardware EtherTalk/Local-Talk router supports DECnet. Current software is K-Star 8.0.1. Router code is in nonvolatile RAM, and CPU is a Motorola 68000. Can handle no more than one LocalTalk and one EtherTalk network. Offers support for TCP/ IP, AppleTalk Phase 2, or mixed Phase 1 and Phase 2, but only one LocalTalk port is provided. Unlimited free technical support. Version 5 shipping. \$2,795. Shiva Corp., One Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142. (800) 458-3550 or (617) 252-6300. (Apr

Shiva TeleBridge \$\$\$\$ This WAN router is a stand-alone hardware device that's faster than a software-only product, although speed is still limited by the modem linked (via a TeleBridge) to a LocalTalk network. Easy installation plus dial-up and leasedvoice-line capabilities. Does not offer auto-connect capability. Operates by using included Inter-Net Manager application or control panel. No EtherTalk inter-face. \$599. Shiva Corp., One Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142. (800) 458-3550 or (617) 252-6300. (Jan '92) SoftPC ttt1/2

SoftPC puts an IBM PC XT inside your Mac without making you crack the case to add any

special coprocessor boards. The emulation of the DOS machine is done entirely in the software. Version 1.3 reviewed. Requires Mac SE (with 68020 accelerator card), SE/30 or II series with 2 MB of RAM and a hard-disk drive. \$199. Insignia Solutions, 526 Clyde Ave., Mountain View, CA 94043. (415) 694-7600. (Nov '88)

Solana H-Server \$\$1/2 This hardware/software router combination provides good security but is not compatible with AppleTalk Phase 2. No automatic backup link. Besides LocalTalk and dial-up asynchronous links, supports synchronous DDS (digital data service), ISDN, and T1 links. Maximum speed is 64 Kbps. Interfaces include RS-232 and V.35, but not EtherTalk. LocalTalk termination is sensitive. \$2,195. Solana Electronics, 4907 Morena Blvd., Ste, 1404, San Diego, CA 92117. (619) 490-5050. (Jan '92)

Sonic Systems Ether TwP/II tttt

The Ether TwP/II is a NuBus card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes thicknet AUI port and diagnostic software. Lacks link-integrity LED. Doesn't auto-configure. Requires Mac II series. \$199. Sonic Systems, Inc., 21211 Rainbow Dr., Cupertino, CA 95014. (408) 725-1400. (Sept '91)

Sonic Systems Ether TwP/LC

The Ether TwP/LC is a PDS card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Lacks additional ports or link-integrity LED. Provides diagnostic software. FPU socket on board. Requires Mac LC, \$199. Sonic Systems, Inc., 21211 Rainbow Dr., Cupertino, CA 95014. (408) 725-1400. (Sept '91)

Sonic Systems Ether TwP/SE

The Ether TwP/SE is a PDS card that provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Lacks additional ports or link-integrity LED. Provides diagnostic software. Compatible with the Mac IIsi. Requires Mac SE/30 or IIsi. \$199. Sonic Systems, Inc., 21211 Rainbow Dr., Cupertino, CA 95014. (408) 725-1400. (Sept '91)

SQL*Net for Macintosh \$\$\$\$1/2 Easy to use and fast, SQL*Net is an API (application-programming interface) for client/server-database access. Server operating systems include IBM MVS and VM as well as VAX/VMS, UNIX, and OS/2. Intended for use with Oracle databases, but offers support for DB2, SQL/DS, and RMA via SQL*Connect gateway. SQL*Net handles most networking protocols and client operating systems. Version 1.2 shipping. \$299 per user; Oracle database for Mac, \$699; servers, \$920 to \$13,000.

Oracle Corp., 500 Oracle Pkwy., Redwood Shores, CA 94065. (800) 345-3267 or (415) 506-7000. (Jan '91)

StarGROUP Server for

Macintosh \$\$\$\\^2\\^2\\
StarGROUP Server, a file server for networked Macs, provides file sharing for Mac, DOS, and UNIX clients. Slow for AFP file sharing and cannot administer from Mac. Maximum number of simultaneous users is 120. Requires 80386-based PC and StarGROUP LAN Manager Server software, 8 users, \$795; unlimited users, \$1,295. AT&T Computer Systems, 100 Southgate Pkwy. Morristown, NJ 07960. (800) 247-1212. (June '91)

Status • Mac tttt1/2

Status Mac is network-management software that collects detailed information about connected Macs. Offers thorough, rapid performance. Has a good interface plus flexible scan scheduling. Includes internal database manager. Can't discern configuration of DOS-compatible PCs. Version 2.0 reviewed. 25 users, \$449; unlimited users, \$1,199. Pharos Technologies, 4243 Hunt Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242. (800) 548-8871 or (513) 984-9273. (Oct '91)

SunTOPS ttt

SunTOPS is file-server software designed to network Sun SPARCstations with Macs using Mac-TOPS and with DOS machines using DosTOPS. Slow for large networks. Supports Ethernet/ EtherTalk but not LocalTalk. Can handle an unlimited number of simultaneous users. Requires Sun SPARCstation. On floppy disk, \$1,295; on tape, \$1,395. Sitka Corp., 950 Marina Village Pkwy., Alameda, CA 94501. (800) 445-8677 or (510) 769-9669. (June

TalkManage \$\$\$

TalkManage includes TalkStat and TalkSpy, which provide a basic network-administration tool for LocalTalk networks. Doesn't support EtherTalk and can't create simulated network traffic for analysis. Poor manual doesn't help you deal with confusing interface. No support for filters but allows five chart types and some error management. Has awkward copyprotection scheme. Version 1.6 reviewed. \$495. Distributed Technologies Corp., 275 Wyman St., Waltham, MA 02154. (617)

684-0060. (Feb '92)
Technology Works NuBus 10T/
Thin/AAUI Ethernet card \$\$\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}\$ This NuBus card provides 10BASE-T Ethernet networking capability. Includes BNC and AAUI ports. Lacks diagnostic software and link-integrity LED. Doesn't auto-configure. Lifetime warranty. Requires Mac II series. \$429. Technology Works, 4030

Braker Ln. W., Austin, TX 78759. (800) 688-7466 or (512) 794-8533. (Sept '91)

Timbuktu tttt

Timbuktu is a color-capable screen-sharing program that lets you access networked Macs for technical support, training, or file management. Allows your computer to be both host and guest or to hook up to multiple hosts simultaneously. Security feature assigns different "classes" of users. Allows file transfer among Macs. A cluttered dialog box is used to establish guest privileges. Supports only network connections not modem connections. Version 4.01 reviewed. Per node. \$195; quantity discounts available. Farallon Computing, Inc., 2000 Powell St., Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608. (510) 596-9000. (Dec '91) * '90 Eddy

TrafficWatch II ttt

TrafficWatch II is a network-administration tool that supports LocalTalk or EtherTalk. Can create simulated network traffic for analysis and has intuitive interface. Supports filters, 7 types of charts, and some error management. Version reviewed was not compatible with AppleTalk Phase 2 and had awkward copy-protection scheme. \$895. Farallon Computing, Inc., 2000 Powell St., Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608. (510) 596-9000. (Feb '92)

TurboStar \$\$\$1/2 The TurboStar distributes Apple-Talk signals to devices on a network and provides networkmanagement and troubleshooting capabilities. Performance can be poor in complex wiring configurations. TurboStar management software is bundled. Version 1.1 shipping. Requires a Mac LAN. \$1,295. Nuvotech, Inc., 2015 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965. (800) 468-8683 or (415) 331-

7815. (May '90) WordPerfect Office tttt

This powerful office-automation package includes a networked group calendar, forms maker, file manager, and E-mail system. Because of this multiuser program's ambitious scope, the interface still needs minor tweaking. Group scheduling and workgroup computing features are real benefits. User-customizable features are extensive but not overwhelming. Messages are sorted by date only. Allows 99 file enclosures per message, and maximum number of users per server is 100. No remote-dial-up utility. Server performance is good, but undeliverable messages waste disk space and remain undetected. Version 3.0.1 reviewed. \$149; 5 users, \$495; 20 users, \$1,295; 100 users, \$5,995. WordPerfect Corp., 1555 N. Technology Way, Orem, UT 84057. (800) 321-4566 or (801) 225-5000. (Mar '92)

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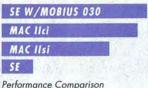


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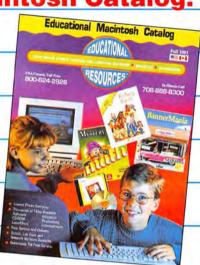
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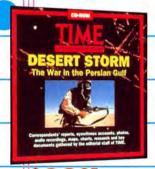
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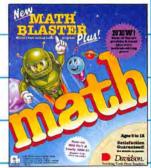
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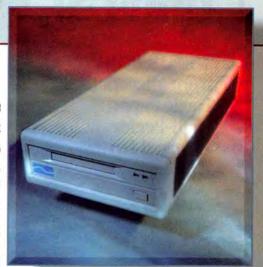
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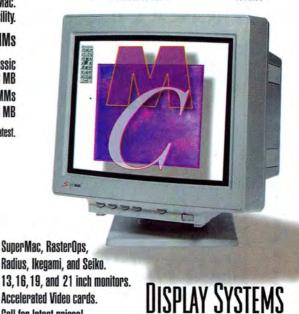


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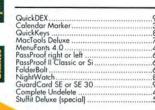


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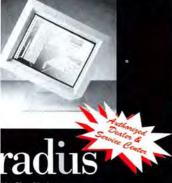
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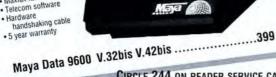
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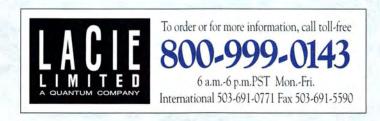
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At La Cie customer satisfaction is the driving force behind everything we do. From our innovative product design to our capable, courteous customer support, La Cie goes the extra mile to assure you quality, service and value.

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Sleek. Streamlined. Easy handling. Economical. La Cie drives deliver the advantages of award-winning design and state-of-the-art technology. Inside and out. For high-speed

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Drive the La Cie Express.™

We love all our drives, but take a look at our newest arrival.

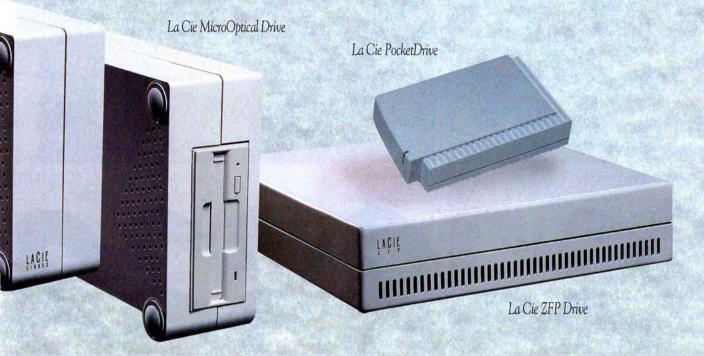
La Cie's new ExpressDrive™ Perfect for sensitive installations,

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the ExpressDrive is empowered with the performance of a Quantum fixed drive and the security and convenience of a removable drive, yet none of the risks of open-air media.

of our drive.

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Tape drives from \$649

Tucked neatly inside our Cirrus case, La Cie's 155MB or 600MB tape drives and 1.2GB or 2.0 GB DAT drives come with Retrospect software offering easy, economical data protection.

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Ask about our generous warranties. La Cie offers up to a 5-Year Limited Warranty on Quantum drives and a speedy 72 hour turnaround on all warranty service!

Ready for a drive.

Don't let the quest for the right mass storage solution drive you wild. Call us. Our friendly, highly qualified staff will gladly help you select the perfect device to suit your needs and budget.

"Silverlining has bailed me out of so many tough situations, I've lost count."

Bobker's Dozen Best, MacUser, December, 1990

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\$2,195* Howtek Scanmaster 3



La Cie Silverscanner

\$1,399



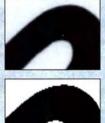
Microtek 600ZS 300 dpi at 1600%



Howtek Scanmaster 3 300 dpi at 1600%



La Cie Silverscanner 300 dpi at 1600%



\$8195**

Microtek 600ZS 600 dpi at 800%



Howtek Scanmaster 3 400 dpi at 1200%



La Cie Silverscanner 600 dpi at800%

Image is everything.

We believe quality is a priority. Our image as a company that produces quality products is well known. We're so confident in the quality of our scanner image that we are willing to compare it to other scanners right here. Compare for yourself.

Great color the first time.

Just look at the difference in the color scans. The single-pass Silverscanner has three separate noble gas-filled lamps for red, blue and green that are balanced so you get great scans the first time. With Silverscanner's built-in gamma correction, you get clean, bright scans with excellent detail in those hard-to-get areas that don't require difficult adjustment like other scanners. This can mean substantial time savings when every second counts.

The shadow knows.

Do you want good shadow detail? Then compare the black and white scans. The Silverscanner can give you production quality gray-scale scans for magazines, newspapers and brochures.

Lay it on the line.

When comparing line art, the Silverscanner really shines! At 1200 dpi you get what amounts to an *electronic stat*. The comparison is incomplete, however, because some scanners don't

have hi-res capability (too bad).
But even if you compare at 400 or 600 dpi, it's clear how much better the Silverscanner is, especially bundled with Color It!

La Cie Silverscanner with Color It \$1399

of our image.







\$2.195* Howtek Scanmaster 3



La Cie Silverscanner

\$1,399







All scans were done at default settings with no corrections. The color images were separated using Adobe Photoshop. The logo was scanned as grayscale and as line art. This entire ad was done on the Macintosh using Silverscanner, Photoshop, Quark XPress and a PostScript Imagesetter. The entire production cost was \$145.



Microtek 600ZS 1200 dpi at 400%—n/a



Howtek Scanmaster 3 1200 dpi at 400%—n/a



La Cie Silverscanner 1200 dpi at 400%



\$8195**

La Cie Silverscanner 1200 dpi at 100%



Software to die for!

We're proud of our image when it comes to quality software, too. La Cie has always had a reputation for powerful, well-written software. La Cie's exclusive plug-in modules for Photoshop, ColorStudio, Digital Darkroom, Enhance, ImageStudio and RagTime have been hailed as some of the best software ever written for flat-bed scanners. Enjoy features like fast dynamic color previews, independent color/brightness controls, nine scan modes, savable scan settings, color dropout, magnified previews, proof scans, 25% to 400% scaling in 1% steps, and 25 dpi to

1200 dpi in 1 dpi steps.
Silverscanner is OCR and Apple
System 7 compatable and can be
purchased with full versions of
Adobe Photoshop *and* Letraset's
ColorStudio— a \$2139 value for
only \$1899!

La Cie Silverscanner with Photoshop and ColorStudio

\$1899

Who ya gonna call?

La Cie offers you toll-free expert technical support. We know scanning inside and out. We can help you. And we'll be here for you tomorrow because La Cie is a Quantum Company.

Seeing is believing.

La Cie is so proud of the Silverscanner, we used it to produce this ad. Not just the comparisons, *everything*. Call and order yours today.

"The choice is clear . . . buy the La Cie Silverscanner." Macworld, June 1991



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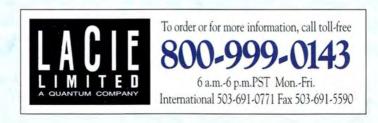
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Call for products not listed.

You'll be delighted at La Cie's competitive prices. Especially when you consider what you get absolutely free. Like our acclaimed Silverlining software. Five megabytes of public domain software. A 2-Year Limited Warranty on Quantum mechanisms (extendible to 5 years). 72-hour turn-around on warranty service. Prompt, courteous, competent service.

At La Cie, we take pride in the unsurpassed value we offer customers. From our state-of-the-art technology to our award-winning design, La Cie never stops working to bring you better products and services than ever before. And because we're a Quantum Company, you can be assured La Cie will continue to provide you service and support for years to come.



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Then just wait till you rip through the shrink wrap and get

into Magic."

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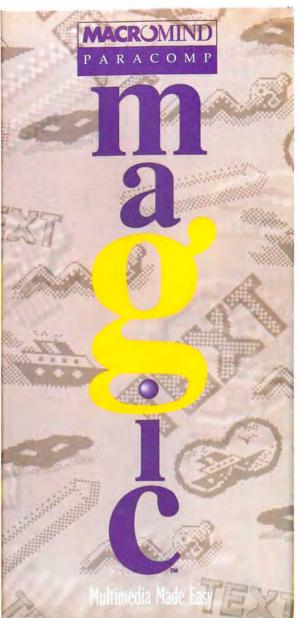
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And add interactivity with onscreen buttons.

Like any good Macintosh® pro-



gram, Magic imports graphics and text from other applications.

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SwivelArt

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SwivelArt SwivelArt SwivelArt SwivelArt **SwivelArt** SwivelArt

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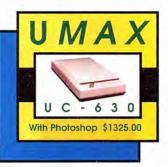
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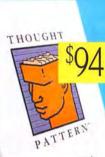
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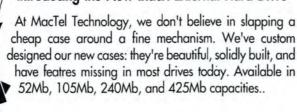




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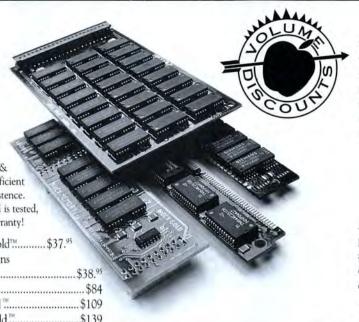
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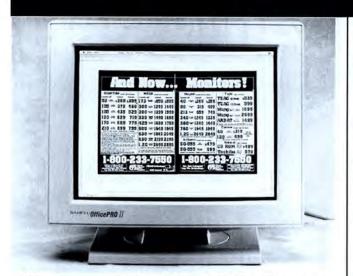
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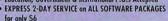


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305-319

320-321

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HARDWARE	200	205		Policies	202		
Accelerator Boards Bar Code	298	305 305		Religion	302		
		305		Sales Marketing		318	
CD-Rom	200			Scientific		318	
Communications	298	205	200	Security		210	
Computer Systems	298	305	320	Shareware		318	
Data Acquisition	000	200	200	Stackware		318	
Data Recovery Services	298	308	320	Statistics			
Disk Drives	299	309		Taxes	000		201
Diskettes		309		Utilities	303		321
General		309		Word Processing			
Input Devices		000	200	Missellanisous			
Insurance		309	320	MISCELLANEOUS	201	210	
Memory Upgrades		309		Accessories	304	318	
Networking		010		Books/Catalogues			
Peripherals		312		Business Opportunities		010	
Printers		314	000	Data Conversion Services		318	
Scanners			320	Desktop Publishing Services		318	
Security				Diskette Copy Services			
Used Equipment				Furniture			
				Insurance			
SOFTWARE				Mailing Lists			
Accounting	300	314	320	Novelties			
Bar Code	300	314	111	Services	004	100	1000
Business	300	314	320	Slide Imaging Services	304	318	
Business Time Management	000	0.14	020	Supplies	304	319	321
CAD/CAM	301						
CD-Rom	301	315		A - Course I was a superior			
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Government					2. 11.20 N. H. J. O.		
Graphics	302	317		Thomas P. Koletas		(212) 50	
Health	502	017	320	CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME,	NC, NH, NJ, N	Y, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT,	AVV
Language Tools		318	020	Dennis M. Leavey		(212) 50	3-5111
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Personal Management			321	Paul Stafford		Vickie Pin	shy
Programming Tools	302		521	Vice President, Classified Ac	duartisina		Advertising Director
Public Domain	302	318			avenising		
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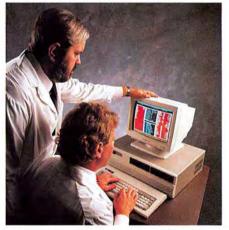
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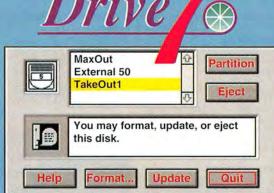
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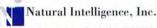
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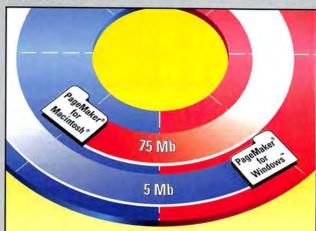
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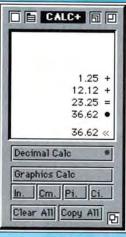
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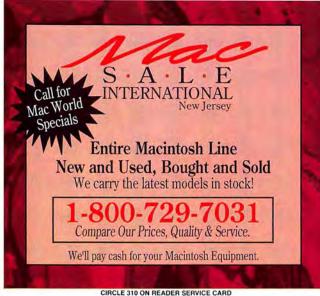
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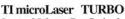
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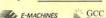






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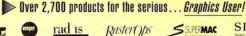
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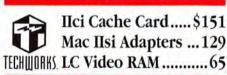
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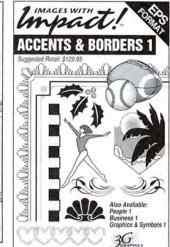
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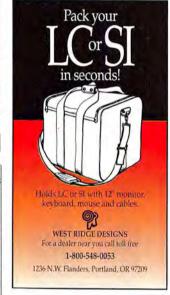
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MirrorgoggiM

've made a habit of doing wacky April Fools' columns over the years at MacUser. Some gags were better than others. Some were hard to discover. Last year, for example, I ran a bogus story about Agnosiaes. It was probably the biggest dud of the lot, because most people read it as fact and those who knew it was bogus figured it was just one of many bogus stories I've written over the years and was actually nothing special.

That's when I decided that the best gags haven't been gags at all, but inconveniences. I'm reminded of the time when I incorporated a second story line transposed over the first, and if you read the column backwards, you got a message from the devil — an IBM representative. It was very inconvenient. Then there was the crossword puzzle. What could be more inconvenient than that? I have since thought about a Jumble or some other word game to inconvenience readers.

This year my initial inclination was to write the column backward in its entirety. Recently novelist Martin Amis did an entire novel based on time going in reverse, where the guy starts out old and gets younger. Clean dishes are put in the dishwasher to come out dirty, as goop from the drain contaminates them and then people spit food onto the already dirty dish. The plate full of food is then taken to the kitchen, where the food is removed and made raw. You get the idea. A weird concept for a book, to say the least. The difficulty in writing such a book is to make sure the action never goes forward. Well, to write a column like that, you'd have to worry about details. Does "The dog chased the cat up a tree" become "Tree a up cat the chased dog the," and how do you punctuate it? This approach has potential for humor. Unfortunately, to be honest and do the backward column properly, you'd really have to write, "Eert a pu tac eht desahc god eht." Now to make that work and make it so people would actually want to read it might take years, which makes topical material impossible, so it would degenerate into stuff like, "Ah, retupmoc eineew a si hsotnicam eht."

Another question is, should you really start at the end and go toward the beginning with the backward stuff or do you do it backward from the beginning?

It was too much to think about, so I decided to do this mirror-image column instead, This technique is humorous (to me at least) and incredibly inconvenient to you, the reader.

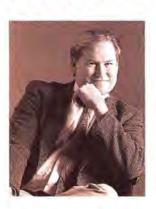
Hahahaha! This mirror-image column has that weird April Fools' character you get with a good practical joke. I mean, can you imagine someone casually picking this issue up at a newsstand and seeing this? They'll probably think that it's a massive typo. I suspect that newsstand sales will increase, because this column will be seen as a collectible mistake. Even better, it will also confound those cheap tightwads who read this column at the newstands and then put the magazine back on the rack.

The key to a good April Fools' gag is that people somehow discover that the column (or whatever the joke is) is indeed a joke. Anyone who doesn't figure it out becomes a laughingstock. It's a rare opportunity to make fun of the dull-witted and humorless. In some instances, intelligent people fool themselves by finding an April Fools' column out of confinding an April Fools' column out of confect. Somehow they find the item in November. This is what may have happened with a recent news report about a virus supposedly squirreled into Iraqi computers through a printer chip. Reported as fact, it was actually an April Fools' gag that ran in an industry tabloid last year.

But why make an April Fools' gag just a compilation of erroneous information? Heck, anyone can do that! It's time to get creative. I'm unaware of any other writers using a mirror image of their column as an April Fools' gag. I hate to be derivative. I tried to talk the management into making the entire magazine into a mirror image, but they figured it would cause some kind of reader revolt. Wimps.

In the meantime, I did some research on April Fools' gags and found very little information on the subject. In 1988 there was an interesting article in Smithsonian magazine, tracing the day back to All Fools' Day - a medieval celebration. Then the article cited some great April Fools' gags. But uncovering the time at which April Fools' Day actually became an American commonplace is difficult. Few histories even mention the day, I'm sure it became popularized by the Three Stooges or some other comic, probably in the 1930s, when people were bored. I can't imagine anyone pulling a gag on Lincoln, for example, and then shouting "April Fools" Day. Abe!"

Well, maybe the 16th president of the United States missed out on the fun. Abe, this one is for you!

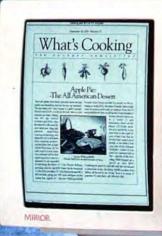


A backward look at a forwardthinking approach to the first day of the fourth month and why Abraham Lincoln missed out.



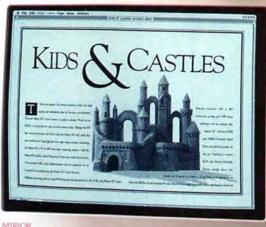
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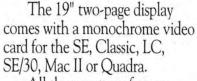
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es He Know?"

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600 Color Scanner - Nancy M. Benz

In December 1991 MacUser gave this scanner 4

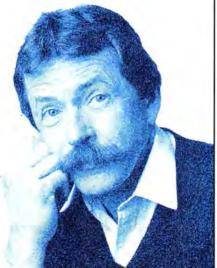
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